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BIRTHS.

At Manila, on the 27th September, the wife of H. D. C. JONES, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of a son. [2281]
On the 2nd October, at the Gas Works, West Point, the wife of F. G. COLLINS, of a son. [2268]
At No. 62, Chapeau Road, Shanghai, on the 29th September, 1896, the wife of E. M. HYNDMAN, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Government Civil Hospital, on October 1st, 1896, PETER MCGREGOR, aged 36, late first Engineer of Chinese Revenue Cruiser *Kaipan*. [2261]
On the 2nd inst., at 2.35 a.m., Captain ROGER MARTIN, Master of the British barque *Velocity*, aged 70 years. [2262]
On the 21st September, at Wuchang, ALEXANDER MACLEAN MACKAY, M.B., C.M., aged 34 years.
At Nanking, on the 25th September, KATE ROBINA, widow of the Rev. E. F. HEARNDEN.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 3rd September arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 30th September (27 days); the English mail of the 4th September arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, on the 2nd October (28 days); and the Canadian mail of the 15th September arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 6th October (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is notified at Shanghai that after the end of October the steamers of the P.M.S.S. and O. & O. Companies will call at that port both going and coming, the well-known firm of Fearon, Daniel & Co. being the agents.

A typhoon passed to the south of Hongkong on the 5th and 6th October and made its proximity felt by rather bad weather in the colony, business afloat being almost entirely suspended for the two days. The wind, however, was not strong and no damage was done.

Hangchow was not declared open to foreign trade on the 26th September as originally intended, owing to the new Customs regulations not being ready, but was to be opened on the 1st of October. Soochow was to be opened on the same day. The Customs regulations for Soochow will be similar to those of Chin-kiang.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China has received telegraphic advice from the London office that at the approaching meeting of shareholders the directors will recommend an interim dividend for the past half year at 7 per cent. per annum free of income tax, or the same as that paid for the like period in recent years.

The liquidators' report of the Singapore Insurance Company shows available assets amounting to \$52,000. There are 30,000 shares; therefore each share should get a dividend of upwards of \$1.61. But the liquidators say that they do not feel justified in distributing the money at present—probably they will do so in a few months.

The *Osaka Asahi* learns that the Russian Government has signed a secret convention with the Korean Government, in which the latter pledges that it will not open Mokpo for foreign trade, nor allow any other country to construct telegraph lines in the interior, nor grant a charter for construction of a railway between Seoul and Chemulpo, without first obtaining the approbation of Russia.

A Seattle despatch of the 4th September says:—Commander John Stark Newell, commander of the United States armoured cruiser *Detroit*, is dead from senile condition of the blood. Capt. Newell's illness was contracted while undergoing privations in connection with his labours as representative of the United States in the investigation of the massacre of missionaries at Kucheng, Central China.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 29th September. Mr. Galle (Chairman) presided and the report and accounts were adopted, the dividend as recommended declared, and the usual formal business transacted. Some discussion took place regarding the reserve fund, two shareholders suggesting that more details should be given regarding investments.

The report of the Canton Insurance Office, Limited, shows that the balance at credit of the 1895 account is \$473,740, out of which the sum of \$268,724 has already been paid for a dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders and a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors of premia. Subject to the approval of shareholders, it has been decided to dispose of the remaining balance of \$205,015 by adding to reserve fund \$100,000, thereby increasing it to \$1,300,000, paying a final dividend of \$6 per share, and carrying forward the sum of \$45,015 to 1896 account. The 1896 account shows an estimated balance at credit of \$507,700.

The first instalment of the reinforcements from Spain has arrived at Manila and it is expected that the rebellion will soon be suppressed.

A comprehensive summary of the report of the Committee appointed by the Governor of Hongkong in response to Mr. Chamberlain's circular respecting the displacement of British goods is published in the *Times* of 26th August. One of the paragraphs referring to the Shipping Conference is given in full.

Captain Lang R.N., and three seamen of H.M.S. *Narcissus* were drowned in Grossevitichka Bay on the 11th September by the capsizing of a boat in which they were returning from the shore to the ship. The accident was seen from the *Narcissus* and a cutter was despatched to the rescue. Captain Mercer, R.M.L.I., a midshipman, and three seamen were picked up, but Captain Lang and three other seamen had sunk by the time the cutter arrived. The bodies of two of the men were afterwards washed ashore, but those of the Captain and the other seamen had not been recovered when the *Narcissus* left.

The 3rd day of the 8th moon (9th Sept.) was the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of H.E. Viceroy Chang of the Hukuang provinces. H.E. refused to receive the costly presents which had been sent him as tribute by the subordinates in Hunan and Hupeh, or to sanction the elaborate fête which had been intended in the viceregal *yamen* by his more intimate subordinates in Wuchang and Han-yang. All that H.E. would accept were scrolls of gilded paper on which had been beautifully written panegyrics of H.E. by fine calligraphists of high rank in these two provinces, with the names of the donors at the end of the scrolls. Nearly 2,000 were presented in this way.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In concluding an article on Li Hung-chang's tour the *N. C. Daily News* says:—It is interesting to add to this a sketch of what a very high Chinese official now in Shanghai thinks as to the future of H.E. Li. He does not think that Li will be reinstated at present at Tientsin; he will probably be given a responsible position in the newly created Ministry of War, whose influence now extends over the whole Empire. Here H.E. Li, backed by his staunch friend Prince Kung, will be given full power to inaugurate the reforms and innovations which his voyage round the world may have suggested to him. This post will suit Li better than the Chihli Viceroyalty, because this Ministry of War has annexed to itself a large share of the privileges and opportunities which formerly belonged to the Viceroy of Chihli, and to other Viceroys. Under those circumstances, our informant says, only pure patriotism would impel H.E. Li to return to Tientsin, for the time of big contracts in that port has gone, and such things will, in the future, be dealt with only in Peking. Hence, remembering also the vacillations to which the Emperor is subject, the future of Li in the native politics of his country is very uncertain; and, indeed, at Peking now no one knows what the next day will bring forth; the only thing certain is that all the powerful influence of the Empress Dowager will be used in Li's favour; it would be a grand thing for China if Li were twenty years younger.

THE WEST RIVER.

The reply of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to the letter addressed to him by the Chamber of Commerce asking for information as to the progress of negotiations re the opening of the West River may have been intended to have been reassuring, but we have failed to draw much encouragement from it. The negotiations between the Foreign Office and the Chinese Minister to England had commenced before Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD left London in February, and His Excellency is able to assure us in September that they are still in progress. Even this does not greatly raise our spirits. The Chinese Minister in London had, on one plea or other, chiefly that of sickness, managed to defer consideration of the demand for many months, after the Chinese Government were understood to have conceded the principle. The negotiations were, the British Minister told us, in the able and vigorous hands of Mr. CURZON, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. CURZON, who has travelled and who has gained some insight into the character of Orientals, was not, we may be sure, too ready to accept all the artifices of the Chinese Minister in favour of delay, but he has evidently found the task of pushing on the question a difficult one. With the aid of some large maps it ought not to have proved either a very prolonged or complicated task. What the British Government, we take it, wanted to have laid down was the distance up the various waterways that China was agreeable to open to foreign steam navigation, and what ports were to be added to those now open. The details were not completely provided for then, but the British Government have no doubt learned for themselves, from an expert in the business, "how not to do it." We have no means of guessing whether this question is standing alone, or whether it is part of a number which have arisen lately, involving the two governments in a rather wearisome discussion extending over a wide field. But we are inclined to believe that no other demand has been bracketed with this, and the Chinese therefore have no valid excuse for deferring it to the Greek Kalends or some equally remote date.

It would seem, moreover, from the British Minister's letter to the Chamber, that the question is entering on a new stage. He says:—"All necessary information, charts, &c., respecting the river and the inland waterways of the Two Kwang provinces is now in this Legation, and I expect detailed instructions from home very shortly to commence negotiations." That is to say, after the subject has been threshed out in London during a period of nine months, it is to be transferred to Peking to be settled between the British Minister there and the Tsung-li Yamen. We fear there will be further prolonged delays. While confident that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD will do his best to push the matter, he will have to meet a body whose great weapon is procrastination, who have reduced the business of shelving unpleasant subjects to a fine art, and who are pretty certain to defer this question as long as possible in order to bracket it with the revision of the tariff. If the British Government stand firm and are resolved not to be fooled, it is possible that the matter may still be settled, but it will rest entirely upon the support afforded by Lord SALISBURY to our Representative at Peking. Under the circumstances, therefore, it will be well not to be too sanguine as to the early realisation of this much desired concession. LI HUNG-CHANG was not so successful as he

hoped in his efforts to secure British sanction for the principle of raising the tariff on imports, and he may counsel the Tsung-li Yamen to delay opening the West River to trade as a means of inducing the British Government to look more favourably on his demand. But should this prove to be the case His Excellency will only find that he has raised a barrier against the attainment of his wish rather than retained a means of bargaining, for the British public would be out of patience with the mingled duplicity and depravity of the mandarins, who are always ready to join in any scheme which promises to wipe the eye of the foreigner. Of course we may prove quite mistaken in these surmises, but we confess to doubt where we should feel confidence. We have no desire to in any way undervalue Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, or to disparage his labour. All we wish is to prevent too sanguine a view being taken concerning a question which has for some years past excited and still continues to excite a great deal of general interest in the colony.

RIVAL TRADE ROUTES OF SOUTH CHINA.

In an article on the respective advantages offered by the West River route and the Tonkin route for trade with Yunnan and the two Kwang, the *Independence Tonkinoise* shows to its own satisfaction the superiority that it considers is already possessed by the latter and that will be possessed in a much greater degree when the railway from Langson to Lungchow is made and subsequently extended to Nanning, and when the facilities afforded by the Red River are also supplemented by railway communication with Laokay. It then goes on to say, speaking more particularly with reference to Yunnan, that if these advantages are to be fully realised "the Protectorate must suppress the barriers created by the application of the tariff general and be as liberal as possible at the commencement, waiving the formalities imposed by the regulations. Thus only can the merchants of Yunnan be induced to use the Red River route for their transactions, but once they have become accustomed to it they will not leave it. The Customs taxes can then be applied without fear, but until then let the Customs show themselves generous and become the protector of commerce." Our contemporary does well to urge that the Customs should not obstruct trade at the beginning, but it is a shortsighted view to suppose that once the Chinese merchants have become accustomed to the route they will never leave it and that taxes can then be freely imposed. All experience is against that supposition. In China commercial routes are constantly shifting as additions or changes are made in lekin barriers, just as the channel of a river shifts with the formation or disappearance of sandbanks. When the West River is fully opened up to steam navigation, when the proposed communications in Tonkin are completed, and when the Burmah Railway to the Kunlon Ferry is in working order, merchants will be determined in their selection of the route they will use by fiscal considerations more than by the physical advantages of the respective routes. A day or two more or less on the way is a matter of less serious consequence than the payment of heavy customs dues or compliance with vexatious regulations the accidental breach of which may lead to confiscation or heavy fines. We cannot agree with our contemporary as to the advantages of the Lungchow railway route over the West River route, for if goods could be placed on board a steamer

at Hongkong and conveyed without transhipment to Nanning there would be little inducement to send them by way of Tonkin; but assuming that the Tonkin route really possesses all the natural advantages claimed for it, the French, if they follow their traditional policy, would regard it as folly to let non-French goods enjoy those advantages without paying heavily for them and submitting to stringent regulations. Hence if the Chinese allow trade to be carried on by the West River upon reasonable terms that route will command the bulk of the traffic for Kwangsi and south-eastern Yunnan. The late PAUL BERT, when Governor-General of Indo-China, recognised the political and commercial advantages to be secured by Tonkin by according the greatest freedom and encouragement to the transit trade, but his views have since been departed from and of late the tendency to throw obstacles in its way has been so great as to draw forth a most emphatic protest from the Hanoi Chamber of Commerce.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

According to an article which we reproduce to-day from the *Manila Comercio*, the rebellion in the Philippines has been caused, not by oppression, but by the granting of institutions too liberal for the state of advancement of the people. We are inclined to think that there may possibly be a good deal to be said in favour of that view, for it is only within very narrow limits that liberal institutions can with safety be granted to an Asiatic people governed by a white race. At the same time, our Manila contemporary appears to have grasped but half the case. While firmness is called for it is also essential that strict justice should be preserved in the conduct of the administration. In the Philippines, it would seem, according to all accounts, that if there has been on the one hand the excess of liberalism that our contemporary alleges, there has been on the other a lack of even handed justice. No condition could be more favourable to the spread of discontent. While the natives have had political privileges of a sort given to them, the personal oppression of officials and priests, who paid little respect to those privileges, has been galling. That the religious orders should prove oppressive when they have the power appears to be inevitable in the very nature of the case, for it has been so in all ages and all countries and Popes and Councils have deemed it necessary to place restraints upon them in regard to their members officiating as parish priests. It is only in the Philippines that they are now allowed to act in that capacity, and the reason for that exception is said to be that they are the power that really holds the country for Spain. It is true that the islands have been held with a very small garrison in proportion to the extent of the country, and the priests have undoubtedly exercised a potent influence, but the present rebellion and previous attempts of a like kind show that they have not conquered the affections of the people and that all the elements of discontent continue to seethe under a veneer of orderly government.

It was alleged in one of our Shanghai contemporaries the other day that the priests were the protectors of the people against the oppression of the officials. Ever since the settlement of the islands there have been feuds between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities giving rise to very disgraceful scandals, but the object of the priests has been a great deal less the protection of the

people than the consolidation of their own power. The ecclesiastics claimed a veritable and recognised ascendancy over the civil power, and, as we have heard, it is not so many years ago that the practice of the Archbishop, at one of the great feasts of the church, walking over the flag of Spain as a visible assertion of that ascendancy was put a stop to by a Governor-General more liberal minded and more zealous for the honour of his country than some of his predecessors. With the civil and ecclesiastical authorities thus at war with each other what chance was there for genuinely good government in the country or for the promotion of the well being of the people? It has been alleged, too, that odium has been thrown on the priests by traders who found their designs to get the better of the innocent native frustrated by clerical interference. The truth is that the orders to which the priests belong are themselves farmers and traders; they hold immense estates, and the natives in the ordinary business of their lives have to work against a powerful and oppressive opposition. In addition to this oppression on the part of the priests it seems also to be a recognised thing that the officials are to make money out of their offices over and above their salaries, and under a general squeeze system content and good government are impossible. Against abuses such as these a few empty forms supposed to be representative of political liberty, such as parish councils and honorific offices, are of small avail.

The general opinion seems to be that the rebellion will very soon be suppressed when the troops now arriving from Spain take the field. Assuming that this is successfully accomplished, Spain would do well to inquire into the sources of the discontent and to remove them as far as possible, not by conferring mock political liberties, but by instituting an order of things in which justice shall be the keynote of the government and in which the priests shall be relegated to their proper sphere as spiritual advisers and not be allowed to dominate in things temporal. No impartial observer can desire the success of the rebels, which would mean simply a reign of anarchy, but the movement undoubtedly points to the existence of evils in the present order of things which can and ought to be eradicated. The difficulty of restoring peace, however, may turn out greater than is anticipated. In Cuba, the *Times* correspondent tells us, "There is much discontent amongst both officers and men of the army on account of not receiving their pay regularly. They are now 4½ months in arrear, the latter half of March being still (1st August) due. If the army was actively employed in campaign work and properly rationed this matter of paying the troops punctually would not be of such very great importance. But the present circumstances render it imperative that the men should have money. In many parts of the island rations are served out in a most irregular manner, and, moreover, in so scanty a quantity as to make it necessary for the soldier to supplement his portion by purchases of food out of his own resources. Without money he cannot do this in a legitimate way; but he will not go hungry if there is food in his neighbourhood, and he takes what comes first to hand without asking leave of the owner. Hence innumerable complaints of depredations committed." If a similar state of things should prevail in the Philippines the rebels would soon receive recruits in large numbers from the native troops.

JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

The way in which Japan's name has been coupled with the rebellion in the Philippines is curious, and to Japan herself must be exceedingly unpleasant. The *St. James's Gazette*, for instance, says:—"This revolt, in fact, is really a consequence to some extent of the rising power of Japan in Far Eastern waters. Having acquired Formosa and become ambitious of a territorial and commercial empire, the eyes of the Japanese have lately been eagerly directed towards the next islands to the south; and the weakness of Spain is regarded as the opportunity of Japan. But it is quite another matter whether the European Powers will take the same view." That Japan would not be loth to assume the sovereignty of the Philippines if circumstances rendered it possible for her to do so with honour there can be little doubt, but that she has afforded any encouragement or assistance to the present rebellion is altogether incredible. When Formosa was transferred from China to Japan the latter Power came within close touch of the Philippines and it was deemed desirable by Spain that the respective spheres of influence of Japan and herself should be demarcated. Accordingly a treaty was entered into by which it was agreed that a line drawn between Formosa and the Philippines should separate those spheres. Even if it be granted for the sake of argument that Japan would not be deterred by considerations of honour from secretly violating that treaty and attempting to stir up sedition in the Spanish possessions, considerations of self interest would certainly prevent her doing so. In the first place, even if the Spanish authority over the islands were overthrown Japan would not be allowed to profit by it; any enterprise she might enter on in that direction would prove even more barren of results than her occupation of Liaotung. In the second place, Japan is now securing recognition of her claim to be treated as on an equality with the Western Powers in international relations and it is of vital importance to her that she should preserve her good name and good faith as regards treaty stipulations and refrain from any act that would bring down upon her the execration of the civilised world, as would the stirring up of such a rebellion as that now unhappily existing in the Philippines.

While on the one hand it is alleged that Japan was concerned in the instigation of the movement, on the other hand it is stated in the latest home papers received that "the report is current in Madrid that the leaders of the rising are German subjects residing in Manila. In support of this it is stated that a pamphlet hostile to Spain, written by a Philippine half-breed, was recently printed in Germany and that the executive committee of the secret society which, according to the latest despatches, is responsible for the native insurrection, was composed of German residents in the islands." This is evidently a canard. It is quite possible that foreign adventurers, some of whom may have been Germans, may have been implicated in the affair, but it is absurd on the face of it to regard it as principally or largely a German movement. The printing of a pamphlet hostile to Spain is very slender evidence to go upon, for the printing might have been done in any country. The German residents in the Philippines being almost exclusively engaged in trade, it is certain that no considerable number of them

would act so contrary to their own interests as to actively promote disorder of a character calculated to bring all trade to a standstill. The paragraph we have quoted was written more than a month ago when little was known in Europe of the circumstances of the rebellion, but the Manila Government has now obtained, by the seizure of papers belonging to persons implicated in the rebellion, and also by confessions, full information as to the genesis and promoters of the movement. Much reticence appears to be exercised with regard to the matter, but from the many arrests that have been made of prominent natives and half-castes, the numerical strength of the rebels, and the strange oath of blood by which they are bound together, the conspiracy would appear to have been essentially indigenous, and even Cuban influence in the affair, if it existed at all, probably amounted to no more than urging those who were already rebels at heart that the time was ripe for action.

THE SANITARY OFFICIALS ON THE RECENT LAW SUITS.

Dr. CLARK appears to feel hurt by the recent decisions given against the Sanitary Board by the Supreme Court in the cases arising out of the Board's illegal action in connection with the cleansing operations. "Because Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH reads these by-laws together," he says, referring to certain by-laws he has quoted, "and the officers of the Board duly authorized to carry out the house to house inspection and cleansing did not certify in writing that in their opinion these filthy cock-lofts ought for sanitary reasons to be destroyed," the Board and its officers, after working night and day to check the ravages of one of the most terrible and fatal of diseases known to modern science, and when their efforts have at last, but at the cost of several valuable lives, been crowned with success, are cast in damages for this technical breach of a by-law which, owing apparently to its clumsy wording, has failed to give to the Board those powers which under the Ordinance it is legally entitled to wield." It certainly is discouraging, after one has been doing what he considers good work, to "come a cropper" at the end, but it is no use crying about it if it is one's own fault. Not that we wish to impute any fault to Dr. CLARK personally; we are speaking of the Sanitary Board and its officers as a body. If the by-law in question is clumsily worded and fails to give to the Board those powers which under the Ordinance it is legally entitled to wield, whose fault is that? The Board's, of course. The decision arrived at by the Supreme Court, however, appears to us to be justified not only on technical grounds, but also on those of common sense and equity, and if any revision of the by-laws is proposed it is to be hoped a reasonable amount of respect will be shown for the interests of those whose property may be affected. That the Chinese are uncleanly in their habits is unfortunately true, and when it becomes necessary to compulsorily cleanse their houses it is idle to suppose the work can be carried out without causing a certain amount of grumbling and dissatisfaction; all that must be taken as in the natural order of things and cannot be allowed to interfere with strictly necessary work; but on the other hand it is not right that the cleansing gang should go forth in the spirit of a military punitive expedition to inflict chastisement on the population. The treatment accorded to

Mr. DANBY when he ventured to speak on behalf of the sufferers shows how little consideration was likely to be accorded to any Chinaman speaking on his own behalf.

Mr. McCALLUM, the Secretary of the Sanitary Board, in his minute on Dr. CLARK's report is pleased to be facetious, or to try to be so. "Unless," he says, "the factor 'Cure by faith' is admitted, it is 'absurd to suppose that the medicinal value of the ginseng, which the Court has found 'to be damaged, was affected in any way by 'the rough handling it is asserted to have 'sustained at the hands of the Board's servants. That its commercial value was 'reduced seems quite clear, and that no 'doubt in a commercial community is a 'factor of far more importance than its 'medicinal value." We must confess that this fails to make us smile, though it appears to be intended for a joke. On the other hand, if we try to look at it seriously, we fail to make any sense out of it. Mr. McCALLUM surely would not contend that the jury, when certain damage to merchandise in the shape of drugs was proved, should refrain from awarding compensation on the ground that the said merchandise was of no medicinal value. The sole question at issue was the commercial value of the article. There is another passage in Mr. McCALLUM's minute that requires a moment's study before it can be understood. He says:—"The exceptional measures taken this year 'to combat bubonic plague were no doubt 'in a very great measure based upon the 'knowledge and experience gained in 1894, 'but, so far as I have been able to ascertain, 'the work was carried out in a very much 'less drastic manner. Had the same white-washing remedy been adopted this year as 'was taken in 1894 these actions could not 'have been taken." As a matter of fact the whitewashing remedy was extensively applied in combatting bubonic plague, and the actions arose nevertheless. But on this point Mr. McCALLUM appears to intend that the "whitewashing remedy" shall be taken as a figure of speech to indicate the indemnification of the Sanitary Board against all claims arising from their illegal acts. In that sense the whitewashing remedy could hardly be considered available this year. It was applied in 1894, and rightly, because at that time the emergency was a strange one and there was no experience to cope with it. Experience has now been gained, and it is not to be expected that the Legislature should go on passing acts of indemnification indefinitely. The Sanitary Board in future must be content to act according to law, and, where the law is found defective, must take steps to have it amended in regular course instead of relying upon some future act of indemnification.

Before leaving these documents there is one other point to which reference may be made. Dr. CLARK speaks of the Board and its officers working night and day to check the ravages of one of the most terrible and fatal diseases known to modern science, and of their efforts at last being crowned with success. As a matter of fact, were the efforts crowned with success? We fully recognise the energy and devotion with which Dr. CLARK and his staff applied themselves to their work, but the success achieved appears to have been of a very partial description. The phraseology used by Dr. CLARK would lead to the supposition that he believes the disease was finally stamped out by the efforts made to combat it, whereas the truth would seem to be that it simply ran its course and came to a natural end, because its disappearance here was almost coincident with its disappearance

from various districts on the mainland of China where no such efforts for its suppression were exercised as in this colony. Experience seems to show that the plague has its season and that on the completion of the season it disappears as naturally as the summer plague of cockroaches disappears with the approach of cold weather. That the efforts of the Sanitary Board and its staff confined the ravages of the plague within limits that it would have exceeded had it been left alone, and that the loss of life was consequently much diminished, we have no doubt; also we believe that by steadily persevering in sanitation the colony may be rendered proof against any epidemic of the disease in future; but when once the unwelcome visitor has obtained a foothold in the colony and runs its course the claim of our sanitarians that its ultimate disappearance after it has exhausted itself is due to their efforts, is in fact their crown of success, appears as unwarranted as would be a claim that the absence of cockroaches in winter is due to the energy with which they are pursued with slippers during the summer.

SHALL THE SANITARY BOARD BE MADE A LAW UNTIL ITSELF.

From the proposed new by-law the Sanitary Board proposes to adopt with reference to the cleansing of houses in time of epidemic it will be seen that the Board does not intend, if it can help it, that its actions shall in future be liable to be called in question in a court of law, as they have been in the past. The new by-law provides that in time of epidemic the officers of the Sanitary Board duly authorised in writing may "make a house to house visitation and "that if the premises so visited or any "part thereof shall be found in a dirty or "insanitary condition in the opinion of the "officer making such visitation he may take "steps to have the same thoroughly cleansed "and disinfected . . . and whenever, "in the opinion of the officer making such "visitation, it is necessary for the thorough "cleansing and disinfection of the pre-mises to take down, remove from the "premises, and destroy any mezzanine floors, "cocklofts, partitions, screens, or other similar "structures or fittings, or any portion thereof, "or when in the opinion of the officer "making such visitation any such mezzanine "floors, cocklofts, partitions, screens, or "other similar structures or fittings prevent "the free access of light and air to the said "premises, he shall forthwith have the same "taken down, and if he considers the "removal from the premises and the de- "struction thereof necessary in the interests "of the public health he shall forthwith "cause the same to be removed from the "premises and destroyed." In other words, the cleansing gang may invade any house in the colony and on the direction of the officer in charge may tear down every piece of woodwork in the house, leaving nothing but the bare walls remaining. The opinion of the officer is to be the sole criterion of whether such removal is necessary or not and no regard is to be had to the hitherto existing legal rights of householders to maintain certain partitions, cocklofts, etc., in accordance with Ordinances referring thereto. Such a provision would throw the doors wide open to abuses of the gravest description; but even if we put aside the question of bribery and corruption, the discretion vested in the officers seems to us far too great. Different inspectors would take different views of what fixtures might be allowed to stand and what should be

burnt, and the public, deprived of all protection of law in the matter, would be entirely at the mercy of the discretion, or the whim or caprice, of officers who, however clean-handed they may be, have not in most cases had the necessary training to qualify them for the exercise of such discretionary power. If the power was conferred only upon the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Superintendent the objection would be somewhat less, but where a house to house visitation becomes necessary owing to the presence of epidemic disease, and has to be got through in as short a time as possible, it is clear that the work could not be done by these two officers alone and that if the by-law above quoted is to have any effect the inspectors of nuisances and other officers in charge of the cleansing gangs will be charged with the exercise of the powers it confers. But even if it were intended to confine these powers to very carefully selected officers we would still maintain that they are too great to be conferred upon any officers acting individually, and more especially when the officers are working under an official Board on which the public is virtually unrepresented; for although Mr. EDG is doing his best to serve the colony as a member of the Sanitary Board, standing alone he cannot be taken as representing the public in the sense of being able to give effect to their views. The result of the recent cases in the Summary Court, and the disclosures made during the course of the trials, point not to the necessity of relieving the officials of all liability to be called to account for their actions, but rather to the necessity of affording the public greater protection against the arbitrary and unreasonable destruction of their property.

The *carte blanche* now asked for by the Sanitary Board on behalf of itself and its officers in regard to the destruction of property in private houses is, moreover, wholly unnecessary if the Board and its officers perform their duty steadily and continuously, and parenthetically we may remark that it is only by steady and continuous sanitation and not by spasmodic efforts that the colony can hope to be rendered proof to epidemic disease. The law is clear and precise as to what cocklofts, partitions, etc., may be allowed, and if the Board sees that the law in these respects is complied with there can be no excuse for tearing down these structures on the ground that they prevent the free access of light and air to the premises. Then as to cleanliness, it is provided by a by-law approved by the Legislative Council on the 11th February last that "any house or part of a house which is "occupied by members of more than one "family shall, unless specially exempted by "the Sanitary Board, be cleansed and lime-washed throughout, by the owner, to the "satisfaction of the said Board not less "than twice in every year, namely, during "the months of February or March and of "September or October respectively, and "notice of such intended cleansing and "limewashing shall be sent to the Secretary "of the Sanitary Board three clear days "before the work is commenced." As practically all the houses in Chinatown are occupied by members of more than one family this by-law may for all practical purposes be taken as of universal application to all except European dwellings, and if its provisions are enforced and every house cleansed and limewashed twice a year there ought to be no excuse for the cleansing gangs, when epidemic disease appears, rushing in and making bonfires of the internal fittings of houses. When the by-law just quoted was approved by the Legislative

Council the Hon. C. P. CHATER said:— "Having in mind the painful experience of the past, and knowing as I do that a few sporadic cases of plague have recently made their appearance, I am loth even to appear to in any way hamper the Government in regard to any measure that they may see fit to take with a view of eradicating this disease. I therefore, at the present, refrain from criticising these by-laws, though I see serious objection to their operation. I trust, however, that when the Government is satisfied that the colony is thoroughly cleansed, they will consent to reconsider this matter." If the hon. gentleman saw serious objection to the operation of a by-law requiring the cleansing and limewashing of houses twice a year he will probably see still more serious objection to a by-law authorising the servants of the Sanitary Board to burn and destroy the internal fixtures of houses according to their own uninstructed discretion. The public will look to Mr. CHATER and his unofficial colleagues in the Legislative Council to resist this attempt of the official Sanitary Board to relieve itself and its officers of all accountability to the law of the colony.

THE CHINESE QUESTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

An objection has been raised to Mr. BRYAN as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States on the ground that he once presented a petition to Congress urging the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Law. It does not appear that Mr. BRYAN took any active interest in the matter, but it is urged that "there is no evidence showing that he dissented from the propositions advanced in the demand for repeal, which he tacitly indorsed when he presented it without a disclaimer." The *San Francisco Chronicle* says the fact will not go unnoticed in the state of California. "Here there has been a practical unanimity of sentiment on this subject. All classes and parties have with one accord pronounced themselves averse to Chinese immigration. It was owing to the efforts of a United Pacific Coast delegation that the passage of the Restriction Act was secured, and we are too much interested in keeping the law in force to think for a moment of helping to elect a man to the Presidency who may be relied upon to upset the result of the efforts of a quarter of a century by again letting loose upon the country the flood of Mongol labour which once threatened to submerge the white worker of the United States." All is fair in love and war, and, it might be added, according to the views of many, in politics. Whatever may have been Mr. BRYAN's opinion upon Chinese exclusion when the subject was before the country, it is very certain that he would not now think of disturbing the decision arrived at. Whatever may be said for or against exclusion as an abstract question, it is now settled for good and all, so far as the United States are concerned, and has ceased to have any life as an actual political issue. Should Mr. BRYAN be elected, therefore, the event would not portend any probability of a change in the law on the Chinese question, or any attempt to bring about a change. LI HUNG-CHANG is reported to have said, in the course of a press interview at New York, that he hoped for a modification of the GEARY law. The hope is a vain one. The Act may be all that Li says it is, and more, but, just or unjust, it is an accomplished fact, and an attempt to upset it would ruin the career of any American statesman. According to Li,

"The Exclusion Act is most unfair and most foolish, because it is admitted by all who have studied political economy that competition, and competition alone, will keep the market in good health, whether that market is one of commerce or labour. Put aside from your minds that I am a high Chinese official and mandarin, and look upon me as a man who is studying the best interests of a country. I say to you that to exclude cheap labour or cheap commerce from your country is unfair and against the best interests of your country. By excluding the Chinese and taking Irish you get inferior labour and pay superior prices for it." All this is very interesting, but the Chinese question in America is dead. We hope, however, when Li resumes power in his own country again, he will not forget his declaration that to exclude cheap commerce is unfair and against the best interests of a country. The declaration might be given a pointed application as against lekin squeezes.

RUSSIAN DESIGNS IN THE FAR EAST.

The concentration of a large army in the neighbourhood of Vladivostok and the strengthening of the Russian fleet in the Pacific have naturally led to much speculation as to Muscovite intentions in the Far East. It has been suggested that Russia has hostile intentions against Japan, also against England, and that she is making preparations to carry them into effect. We do not think the indications lie in that direction. Russia means, we take it, to secure an additional slice of Manchuria, including Port Arthur; also to exercise an effective voice in controlling the destinies of Korea. Her movements in that direction, she conceives, might possibly be objected to by one or more of the Powers, and she wishes to place herself in a position to prevent, by the display of a large military force, any interference with her that might otherwise be attempted, and if there still be interference, to be strong enough to frustrate it. Russia, we take it, does not wish to interfere with England in the Far East if England does not interfere with her, and we cannot see that England has much cause or justification for interference. Russia is acting in the North very much as England herself would do were she in the same position. This question would, no doubt, be adverted to in the conference which took place between the CZAR and Lord SALISBURY last Sunday and if the Prime Minister made a bargain that Russia's aims in Manchuria and Korea would not be interfered with provided Russia would undertake not to shut out British trade from any new territory that she may acquire, the British Empire would have no cause to regret it.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DOCK COMPANY.

The Hongkong correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* appears to think that the arrangement of having a Managing Director of a Public Company is a novel and untried one and that it would therefore be unsafe to experiment with it in the case of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company. In this he is mistaken, the arrangement being quite a common one in England. There is therefore no lack of experience in the matter. The curious objection is taken by the correspondent that the chief manager is the paid servant of the company and that to appoint him managing director and chairman of the company would be setting him

to boss his masters. Managing directors are always the paid servants of their companies. Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND, for instance, is the paid servant of the P. and O. Company; if he "bosses his masters" all that can be said about it is that it is very much to their benefit. The next objection is that when Mr. GILLIES wanted to go away on leave there would be no one with the same experience to take his place. That consideration applies to all appointments, whatever their character, and possesses no force at all. In private firms the senior partner in course of time has to be succeeded by a junior partner, and in public companies the chairmen, directors, and managers in like manner make room for others. We might wax sentimental on that point, but out of consideration for the feelings of our readers will refrain. There is only one more objection urged by the correspondent, and that is put in the form of the following question:—"And suppose that either of these clever and experienced men were to make a series of mistakes (Homer nods) who would like to keel-haul the chairman?" As to that, supposing the occasion for keel-hauling to arise, no greater reluctance to carry out the process would be displayed than under existing circumstances, and when the attack could be concentrated on a responsible individual it would be more likely to prove useful than when it has to be distributed over a full board of directors and produces no more effect than striking at a sand bag. Seeing how many companies in the Far East are under the control of general managers and general agents with consulting committees only, shareholders would hardly be likely to object to the principle of a managing director with a full board to assist him and act as a check upon him when a check was required.

THE GRANITE DRESSING NUISANCE.

The ruling of Hon. Commander HASTINGS in the granite dressing case heard at the Police Court yesterday is of considerable interest and importance, and we imagine there are few who will disagree with the decision the Magistrate arrived at. Briefly, what he says is that granite must be dressed at the quarry before it is transferred to the place where it is required. The defendant in yesterday's case was a Government contractor, and the prosecution—a private one—clearly showed that a great proportion of the granite blocks the masons were working upon were actually in the same rude state as when taken from the quarry, and it is very likely that the whole of the stones used in the work were in a like condition on arriving here. Naturally residents strongly protest against a public thoroughfare being converted into a stonemason's yard and the gentlemen who took the initiative in having the nuisance stopped are to be commended for their action. It was impossible for them to have peace and quiet when the most irritating noise of the masons' punches was carried on almost at their front doors from early morning to evening on every day of the week. What really surprises us most in the case is the apparent backing-up of the defendant by the Government. It is a matter of common knowledge that fine-dressed and polished granite is shipped from the British Isles to all parts of the world, while ancient history is replete with instances of the removal of huge blocks of stone, hundreds of miles and without the aid of the many means employed nowadays for safe transit.

Yet the Government allowed one of their servants to continue to fight a hopelessly weak case in the Police Court and to persist in putting forth the plea that fine-dressed granite could not be transferred from Hongham to Hongkong—a distance of only three miles—without risk of damage. But there is a certain risk in everything we do; if no risk were run, then the world, politically, commercially, socially, would be in a sorry plight indeed. But it seems to us that there is another and deeper cause of all this illegal punching. It was admitted, even by the expert witnesses for the defence, that the stone could safely have been partly dressed at the quarry, but it turns out that the expense would be greater to the contractor. Are not the peace and comfort of the residents of greater moment than the balance sheet of a Chinese contractor in the employ of the Government? He makes a bargain to do certain work, but it cannot be tolerated that he shall make himself a public nuisance in order that he shall have a heavier purse. It was stated that the defendant was doing no more than many other contractors in the colony. There is only one way of dealing with this nuisance and we hope action will be taken in every case where the public are disturbed. The whole of the stones forming the new Praya Reclamation wall are fine-dressed at the quarries, a special stipulation being that no dressing, with the exception of the final trimming, can be carried on on the works, and if stonemason's work can in this important instance be carried on at the quarries it stands to reason that work of minor importance can also be accomplished in a similar way.

THE JAPAN-SHANGHAI CRICKET MATCH.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 5th October.

The cricket match between Shanghai and Japan opened to-day. Japan went in first and made a total of 90, the principal scores being:—

White	30
Smith	14
Kingdon	14

Shanghai at the close of the day's play had made 126 for five wickets. The principal scores were:—

St. Croix	(not out) 42
Firth	23
Mann	21
Farbridge	(not out) 15

Weather hot.

SHANGHAI, 6th October.

Rain stopped play in the interport cricket match at noon to-day, when Shanghai had made 177 for six wickets.

St. Croix	(not out) 63
Cox	(not out) 27

The Japan team, according to latest advices received, was to be composed as follows:—From Kobe, Messrs. Townsend, Tate, Wilkinson, Lucas, Robinson, and Smith. From Yokohama, Messrs. Walford, White, Pearson, Goddard, and Kingdon.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following, in reference to the cricket team selected to represent Shanghai against Japan:—

For more than one reason cricket has not "caught hold" of the public this year to the same extent as in former seasons. Perhaps the best explanation lies in the fact that practice has been neither regular nor hearty, and that too much attention has been bestowed upon the soft ball game right through the season. However, the team chosen to represent Shanghai next week is one to which, under the circumstances, but little exception can be taken; and though its constitution is not exactly what it should be from the cricketer's point of view, yet the eleven is strong enough to give a good account of itself in the forthcoming contest. And the following remarks on its constituent

elements may not be without their interest on the eve of battle.

P. A. Cox.—A genial player, probably the hardest hitter in the S.C.C. A good field and a capital bowler.

R. C. Farbridge.—Will captain the team, Mr. Cox having retired from that position. He is a very strong bat, with grand reach. A fair change bowler for a few overs, rather too fond of attitudinising at the wickets, and of patting some imaginary blade of grass on the pitch.

C. M. Firth.—Comes with a high reputation from Hongkong, but so far has not realised local expectations. Is a steady bat; fair field and change bowler.

W. H. Jackson.—Of Bombay renown, is undoubtedly one of the strongest all-round men in the team. Is a bowler who uses his head to some purpose, and on his day is dangerous to a degree. A fine steady bat and plays with great confidence. He is a great run-stealer.

R. Macgregor.—As a wicket-keeper is not up to Bruce Robertson in his best form. Stops the ball well, but does not handle it quickly enough when in his possession. Generally good for a dozen runs.

J. Mann.—Can do most things with bat and ball. A strong hitter, especially on the on side. A fine deep-field and a very paying change bowler. Can keep wicket better than most men.

A. J. McClure.—A boatsman with a fair defence and strong hitting powers. A capital catch. As a bowler he is fast and straight, but his delivery is very laboursome.

W. H. Moule.—The best man in the Eleven. A great punisher of slack bowling, probably the best bowler in the S.C.C., and admittedly a fine field. Great anywhere. "Our Ranjitsinghi."

F. A. de St. Croix.—A left-handed bat, particularly strong on the off side. Has not come off lately with the ball. Rather slow in the field.

W. J. Tyack.—A fair all-round man. Bats well at times, but is rather too much given to dancing at the wickets. A good change bowler and great in the long-field when in the catching mood.

T. Wallace.—A very useful man. A good bat with fine late cutting powers. One of the best bowlers in the team. A very fine field anywhere.

Briefly, then, the team comprises five bowlers of excellence and five very fair change bowlers, while every one of the Eleven is pretty good on the defensive. In fact it is a 200-run eleven.

CAPTAIN LANG, R.N., AND THREE SEAMEN DROWNED.

We regret to announce a painful fatality which occurred on the 18th September near Barracouta Bay, Gulf of Tartary, whereby Captain Lang, of H.M.S. *Narcissus*, and three seamen lost their lives. The *Rainbow*, which arrived yesterday, brought the intelligence. It seems that Captain Lang and seven men left the shore in a gig to board the *Narcissus*, which was lying some distance out. The weather was rather stormy at the time, a stiff breeze blowing, and the sea was very rough. Just as the boat was crossing the bar she capsized and the eight occupants were thrown into the water. Four men managed to swim ashore, but unhappily Captain Lang and three men were drowned. A cutter's crew witnessed the sad accident from the shore and they at once put off to the rescue, but their boat was also capsized by a heavy squall and the whole of the men were hurled into the water, but they all managed to get safely ashore again. The *Narcissus* was some distance away at the time owing to the rough weather and was unable to render any assistance. We understand that Commander Robert K. McAlpine, of H.M.S. *Swift*, has been appointed Acting Captain of the *Narcissus* and that Lient Yonel, of the *Narcissus*, has been appointed Acting Captain of the *Swift*.

The first account of the sad death of Captain Lang and three seamen was not quite correct in the details. The Captain, an officer of marines, a midshipman, and six men were returning from a fishing expedition near Grossevitche, which is on the Fish River, Gulf of Tartary. A very strong easterly wind was blowing

and the Captain, before reaching the bar, decided to wait in smooth water until the storm abated, but the current carried the boat down the river and just as the bar was crossed she was capsized by a squall. The accident was witnessed from the *Narcissus*, which was about a mile away, and the first lieutenant and several men at once put off and effected the rescue of the officer of marines, the midshipman, the coxswain, and two seamen, but Captain Lang and three seamen were drowned. Only two bodies, those of seamen, were recovered. The accident to the *Narcissus* cutter which we mentioned yesterday happened before the fatality, the boat being thrown on to the beach in the river by the heavy sea, but no damage was done.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

30th September.

Many people are now of opinion that the rebellion in the Philippines is slowly dying, but perhaps, dying to be born again at a more favourable opportunity. From the latest advices we learn that the Spaniards are watchful and the insurgents quiescent. The prompt and severe punishment meted out to the leaders in the rebellion seems to have dealt a death blow to the courage and organisation of the natives, and it is thought that the whole movement will in a short time dissolve. Three thousand Spanish troops were expected to arrive in Manila last Monday; and it is almost certain that if the natives did not make a bold bid for supremacy before that date and also succeed in winning over the native soldiers they would, as they are meagrely armed and wretchedly organised, fall hopelessly in a pitched battle before the trained Spanish soldiers. In Manila business is still at a standstill, most of the godowns being completely full of unwanted merchandise. The town is surrounded by a strong guard of sentinels, and in the old town of Manila the drawbridges are hauled up throughout the night. The approaches to the suburbs are also carefully watched by soldiers, and residents, Britishers, Americans, and Spaniards, sleep with loaded revolvers under their pillows. The volunteers also act as sentries and every precaution possible is taken against a sudden attack. Some thousands of insurgents are encamped on the hills about eight to ten miles away from Manila, but they do not seem inclined to make an attack on the town.

Cavite still continues to be the stronghold of the insurgents and it is said that twelve hundred of them are masters of the fort near the town and that they have enough provisions to last them for two years. Some days ago several guns, of rather an ancient and small pattern, were despatched from Manila on lighters to Cavite, together with a number of troops to assist in the bombardment of this fort, but as yet the Spaniards have not ventured into the interior to wage war with the rebels.

More awful stories are circulated of the shocking atrocities committed on both sides. The woman who confessed the plot to the priest is now under the protection of the Government, while the priest who divulged the secret was amongst those caught in the convent at Imus, and he was flayed to death and then roasted. Arrests of rich natives continue to be made and no one knows what their fate will be. Pedro Roxas, or "Captain Lewis," as he was commonly called, is still in gaol. A curious story is told concerning his connection with the revolutionary movement. When the rebellion first broke out he offered to transport Spanish troops to Cavite in one of his boats, but the offer was refused. It is thought that the Spanish Government knew of the active part he was secretly taking to stir up the rebellion and, perhaps not without good cause, concluded that he had an object in getting the troops away from the capital. "Captain Lewis" formerly let small boats out for hire and after a time he was able to have several cargo boats built for his own trading purposes. He is said to be now worth \$2,000,000.

There is no doubt that there is a good deal of truth in the rumour that the Philippines endeavoured to get the assistance of the Japanese, as one of the active participants in the attempt, a well known

doctor, has been arrested and thrown into prison. There is also a firm belief that certain people in Hongkong have been assisting in organising the rebellion, and it is a well known fact that about a month ago one of the leading and richest of the insurgents came here from Manila to confer with some friends in the colony about the details of the plot.

The Manila papers to hand continue to record numerous arrests and dismissals from office of convicted or suspected individuals. The names of thirty-eight schoolmasters of various parishes in the province of Cavite are given, whose whereabouts are unknown, and who, being suspected of having joined the rebels, are suspended from office.

In Cavite the position appears to remain as last reported, the rebels being in possession of the province with the exception of the town and arsenal.

In the *Comercio* of the 22nd September we find references which seem to indicate that on the previous day the rebels had appeared at Malabon and been driven off by the Government forces, but the paper of the 21st, which would contain the account of the affair, has not come to hand. In a subsequent issue it is recorded that there had been another alarm in the same district, but on investigation it was found to have arisen from nothing more serious than a noisy quarrel between a buyer and a seller in the market. That such a trifling affair should give rise to uneasiness is indicative of the state of panic that prevails.

Some persons connected with the insurrectionary movement have made their submission to the government and claimed the clemency offered to those who voluntarily surrender.

From the province of Batangas it was reported that on the 21st September there had been a seditious rising in the parish of Tuy, in which it was estimated that a thousand persons took part. The seventy men of the Government forces stationed there defended themselves heroically and in the evening were reinforced with two hundred soldiers, and the next day further large reinforcements arrived, bringing the number up to twelve hundred, when the rebels were dispersed with great loss. It was stated that the force in the provincial capital was sufficient for all contingencies. The convent was fortified and twenty-three priests from the surrounding parishes had taken refuge there. A volunteer force had been formed.

5th October.

On Thursday morning, the 1st inst., about 1,800 troops arrived at Manila direct from Spain, and at three o'clock in the afternoon they landed. This is the latest advice we have. Where the troops were sent to and whether they have had an engagement with the rebels we do not know, but their arrival at once restored confidence in business and private circles and trade showed signs of improving. Further instalments of troops are expected in a few days. There can be little doubt, we think, that the back of the rebellion has been broken. Everything has been quiet in Manila for some days, while in the provinces the rebels seem to have lost faith in themselves and it is not expected that the Spanish troops will have much difficulty in completely restoring order.

A MANILA PAPER ON THE REBELLION.

THE CAUSE AND THE REMEDY.

We translate the following from the Manila *Comercio*—

"The events now transpiring have been for all alike—for loyal sons of the country and for Peninsulars of longer or shorter residence—a painful surprise and a veritable revelation. No one could have suspected or foreseen them. Since the discovery of these islands Spain has been earnest in the evangelisation and the moral and intellectual education of the natives; she gave to the archipelago a prudent organisation and an adequate administration, and instituted wise laws which have been imitated by other nations in their colonies. Time passed, and about twenty years ago the supreme authorities thought they might adopt for these islands more liberal laws, which were demanded by no one

nor required by the advancement of the country, such as the civil code, some of whose provisions have, fortunately, remained in suspense; the penal code; the creation of justices of the peace, which has been disastrous for the districts and for the orderly administration of justice, for it has sown the seeds of ambition and discord, establishing a post much sought after and at times perilous to the mechanism of government, juggled with by classes which enjoy neither the preparation nor the necessary capacity to exercise it; and, lastly, the municipal reorganisation of 1893, precipitated as a consequence of the royal decree of the 12th November, 1889, and which has resulted in the creation of a doctrine of decentralisation which before did not exist, breaking the bonds of legal unity, emancipating the municipal tribunals from the salutary moral tutelage of the parish priest and the efficacious direction of the chief provincial officials, thus producing a feeling of economic independence and effective autonomy which could only produce the bitter fruit and deplorable results we all now know, this independence being utilised by badly educated minds incapable of distinguishing fine points of law to organise insensate rebellions against the integrity of the country, preparing the way for the perverse suggestions of cowardly agents and disloyal mediums, and converting the very place that ought to be the sacred repository of the communal interests and the bulwark of the interests of the State into a den of filthy and illegal societies and a dark conventicle of nefarious treason, gross practices, and infamous and bloody compacts.

Such is the incredible ingratitude obtained by the generous country which with a precipitancy blameworthy because of its magnanimity instituted laws designed to elevate these islands to the rank of the most civilised countries; such is the recompense earned by the country that with illimitable love has thought solely of the good of the Philippines, of the disinterested development of its resources by laws concerning rights of property, by exhibitions in the metropolis and local exhibitions, laws on primary, secondary, and university education; such is the reward received by the country that has never allowed budding merit to pass without large recognition, lavishing on the sons of the soil, as on favourite children, the highest marks of confidence and honour, prodigally according them the most sought-after dignities.

Let it not be said that the proved loyalty of the greater part of the Philippine population sufficiently answers what we have said, that we have in this a set-off to the evil and to the ramifications of the treacherous plot which, though discovered in time, leaves its traces in footsteps of blood. Let it not be said that this insensate movement is confined within narrow limits, because it is false, and because there is no room for such limits amongst Spaniards; where there is a priest of our orders, there is Spain and the complete representation of our faith, of our belief, of our absolutely Christian civilisation, and of the sacred national interests. It is well to follow this very closely and to unmask the great fraud, for the benefit of the lukewarm and the careless.

Populations distant from a general culture cannot respond to the height and amplitude of certain laws, but require others adapted to their limitations and their inferior state; and this, to its honour be it said, is the opinion of the whole of the press of the archipelago. These populations will not be reformed by liberal institutions, nor will they move in the direction they ought except in so far as they are led. In presence of actual events it must be confessed that, if it is not the actual truth it at least appears that three centuries of civilisation have passed without leaving any trace of their passage; three centuries of evangelistic teaching without touching certain hearts, which must be of stone; three centuries, in short, in which the glorious Castilian language has not opened a way for itself, while in a few years the way has been opened for an absurd Masonry, secret meetings, wicked ingratitude, mean ambitions, criminal teachings, and compacts of blood and rebellion.

The present moment is, in this matter, decisive, and we pray God to enlighten the nation and the supreme authorities in the wise selection

of their measures and the suppression of so many useless institutions and prejudicial laws. Terrible has been the awakening, grievous the revelation, costly the teaching, so costly that it has been sealed with the innocent and heroic blood of defenceless victims, of venerable priests, of gallant officers and soldiers of our army, and the irremediable evil can only be converted into good for the future if the lesson is improved as patriotism, foresight, and prudence dictate, and, as we think, in the manner we have indicated.

With our opinion appears to coincide the vigorous awakening of the mother country, which, though afflicted by the costly war in Cuba, renews her vitality and reveals her inexhaustible energy, placing in rapid movement several thousands of soldiers who are now on their way to these shores and who in a few days will share with the gallant army of the archipelago, both peninsular and native, the satisfaction of duty fulfilled, the triumphs of valour, and the glories of loyalty.

SUPREME COURT.

1st October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

SCHEELE AND CO. V. CHOY LOONG CHUEN.

In this action plaintiffs sought to recover \$731.55 damages caused to them by reason of the defendant's failure to take delivery of certain tin plates purchased by him from the plaintiffs, and also on an account stated and dated 7th July last.

Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. C. Ewens represented the defendant.

Mr. Hastings said the defendant was formerly compradore to the plaintiffs. In February last he ordered from them one thousand boxes of tin plates and the price fixed was \$5.10 a box. The defendant said he was not purchasing for himself, but for a buyer. The order was sent to London and in due time the goods arrived. The defendant was requested to take delivery of the goods, but he did not, and said he would give the buyer's name in the course of time. The goods were consequently placed in the godown and when the compradore was leaving the firm in July he was again requested to take delivery. He said he could not do so then because he had no money, but he would take them in a month or two's time. He then signed an account containing an entry of these goods, thereby acknowledging that he was indebted to the plaintiffs for the value of the goods. Eventually, after proper notice to the defendant, the goods were sold by auction on the 26th August and they fetched \$4,410, the original purchase price being \$5,100. Other expenses were incurred and there remained a balance due to the plaintiffs of \$731.55.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship decided to reserve judgment, a point of law having been raised by Mr. Ewens as to the liability of the defendant on the account stated.

2nd October.

In this case his Lordship delivered judgment as follows:—The plaintiffs claim \$731.55 on two counts. The first ground alleged was that the defendant had failed to take delivery of certain tin plates purchased by him from the plaintiffs, and the second cause of action was that this \$731.55 was due on an account stated by plaintiffs to defendant. After a short time the first cause of action was abandoned by consent and the cause of action really relied upon was that on account stated. In support of the claim for \$731.55 due on account stated the plaintiffs put forward a document which it was stated, was a list of goods delivered and not paid for, and in that list the compradore, the defendant in this suit, was debited with the amount of \$5,100 on account of tin plates. Now assuming the document was an account stated the account stated appears to have been some \$5,100, and I can in no wise see that there is

any account stated with regard to any sum of \$731.55. I think on that simple account alone I must give judgment for defendant with costs.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club was held at the City Hall on the 2nd October for the purpose of considering and if thought fit altering Rule 9 of the rules of the Club by expunging the words "not being officers of the Army or Navy" where such words occur in Rule 9, which reads as follows:—"The stewards shall be 10 in number and shall be appointed annually. They shall be chosen by ballot from among the resident members of the Club not being officers of the Army or Navy at the general meeting of members to be held in the October of each year, as hereinafter provided. All vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled up by the stewards by selection from among the resident members of the Club not being officers of the Army or Navy." Hon. C. P. Chater was voted to the Chair, and amongst those present were—Hons. J. J. Bell-Irving, T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. A. Coxon, T. Jackson (Stewards), and T. F. Hough (Clerk of the Course). There was a very large attendance of members.

The Clerk of the Course read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the reason for calling this extraordinary general meeting is given you in the advertisements which have appeared in the various newspapers and also in the notice which has just been read by the Clerk of the Course. Therefore I presume we can take it for granted that you are acquainted with it. It was represented to us that the words which we are about to deal with were of an objectionable nature. A meeting of the stewards was called immediately, the matter thoroughly discussed, and a resolution unanimously arrived at to the effect that the words in question were objectionable and should be expunged from our rules. (Applause.) And this is what we are now going to ask you to do. We have found it impossible to trace how and why these words have appeared in our rules. Mr. Francis, who kindly undertook to draw up these rules, is of opinion that they must have been in the old rules of the Hongkong Race Fund and were inserted here, whilst Mr. Coxon, one of the oldest members of the Hongkong Race Fund, does not recollect these words in the old rules, but does recollect indeed officers of the Army and Navy being elected as stewards in the old days. But let that be as it may, the fact remains that the words are there in this rule, and although they ought to be expunged, the only way they can be expunged is by adopting the present proposal. I have therefore great pleasure in proposing the alteration of rule 9 as read to you by the Clerk of the Course.

Mr. T. JACKSON—I have great pleasure in seconding.

Mr. COXON—I would like to say one word in reference to what has fallen from Mr. Chater about this part of the rule having been part or parcel of the old rules of the Race Fund. I am positive that no such wording ever appeared in any rule of the Race Fund. Quite the contrary. I think this Jockey Club and this meeting should be thankful to those who brought this particularly objectionable part of rule 9 to the notice of the stewards and the Club, and in supporting Mr. Chater's proposal I will only tell you that I have a list here of very distinguished officers of the Army and Navy who have served as stewards of the Hongkong Race Fund from the year 1849.

Mr. G. C. C. MASTER—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, before this resolution is put to the meeting I wish to make a few remarks about it, and I have an amendment to bring forward. I am in favour of this resolution, but subject to my amendment. I quite agree with what has fallen from the Chairman. There ought to have been no such rule directed against a class of distinguished men. Naval officers and military officers are quite as eligible to serve as stewards of a Race Club as civilians, and I cannot see why they have ever been excluded by such a rule. It may be said that they are merely birds of passage; but they are not. Most of them come out here and are with us for three or four years, and you are not required

to be here ten or twelve years before you can be stewards of a Race Club. Many of them come here, especially military officers, with a very considerable knowledge of racing and racing matters and rules, and it may be that the presence of officers of the Army and Navy is of great help to the stewards. Decisions have sometimes to be given without hesitation and on the spot, and it may be that the stewards hesitate in arriving at a decision. What we want of course is the strongest body of stewards possible to represent us, especially at the annual meeting. We want men who have a knowledge of racing as our stewards and who take a great interest in racing, and men who watch each race closely and form an idea in their own minds as to what has happened and are able to deal swiftly and surely with any objection that may be made after a race is over. Such things have to be dealt with on the spot and not at some future date. There may be—fortunately there have not been lately—occurrences on the race course that require to be dealt with forthwith. When anything out of the ordinary crops up in regard to riding I say it should be dealt with severely, especially when the riders are what are known as amateurs. They have no such thing as a licence, and a gentleman rider needs a very firm hand exercised over him to keep him in his proper place and so on. If you alter this rule 9 by striking out the words mentioned there is still another rule which enables the stewards to do as they have heretofore done—to appoint stewards from amongst the military officers and a large number of stewards during the racing season. The rule reads "That the Governor and the senior naval and military officers and such other persons as the stewards in their discretion think fit shall be invited to become honorary members of the Club and to act as stewards during the racing season." You will notice that the words are "honorary members" and the "honorary" does not come before the word "stewards." So that I take it that the gentlemen who are asked by the stewards elected at the annual meeting here this afternoon to become honorary members have as much right to act as stewards as any stewards elected here, and to give a decision on a foul or foul riding or whatever it may be. Now in voting on this resolution I ask you gentlemen here to take into consideration whether there should not be something tacked on to rule 9 or some undertaking from our stewards that this honorary business should be discontinued in a very large measure. Gentlemen, I ask you to discontinue appointing any honorary member as a steward, and I do so with great pleasure. The three honorary members I propose to except are the Governor, the senior naval officer, and the senior military officer. I do not say the General or the Admiral, because the General or the Admiral may be away. I ask you to limit the number to three; there should be three honorary members only. Then we should have our ten stewards elected here from amongst civilians and naval and military officers. It is not likely that naval officers will be elected because they are not here for a long time. Other officers may be here all the year round and they may be particularly interested in racing. Our military officers are here all the year round and some of them do take a keen interest in racing and have a thorough knowledge of it. It is unfortunate of course that this meeting should be held so late, because it is necessary to have the resolution confirmed at another meeting and so this may prevent any military officer being elected at the annual general meeting to be held immediately after this meeting. But it is better to alter late than never and I ask you, if there is no technical objection, to tack on to rule 9 words which will be in a great measure in opposition to rule 10, or I shall be content if the stewards will say that in future they will not invite as honorary members of the Club any except the Governor for the time being, and the senior naval and military officers, and as regards such other persons as the stewards in their discretion think fit, that they be limited to some gentlemen who may be here belonging to the Shanghai Club. A steward of the Shanghai Race Club may be down here—a steward who may be considered a valuable addition to

the Hongkong body, and perhaps he would assist the judge—a thoroughly independent gentleman, not an owner, and without any interest in a competing pony, and therefore he would be a very valuable gentleman, and he may have held the same position in Shanghai. Members might say "No, we are not going to vote for this resolution because in addition to the naval and military officers that may be elected at the general meeting there are several who, for all we know, do not care a fig about racing and races and they are presented with a bouquet and come to the steward's dinner." Now, gentlemen, I ask you to adopt the amendment I propose to put, and that is that rule 10 should refer only to the officers I have suggested. I do not think what I have said will be opposed by the military members of this Club, because His Excellency General Black is, I believe, prepared to second my amendment. My amendment is that rule 10 be altered so that it reads as follows—that is if there is no technical—

The CHAIRMAN—So far I must say you have been well within your limit, that is to say, you may submit any amendment you like and you may refuse to vote for the present resolution, but you must confine yourself to the resolution, of which due notice has been given and which has been read. If you want to alter article No. 10, you must go through the same process we are going through now with Article 9. But if you are prepared with an amendment to the original resolution I will be very pleased to hear you on that.

Mr. MASTER—I propose to tack this on to rule 9 as altered—"The Governor of the colony, the senior naval officer, and the senior military officer may be invited to become honorary members of the Club and to act as stewards during the racing season."

The CHAIRMAN—Then, Mr. Master, what have we? Suppose that amendment is seconded—I have not heard it seconded yet—but suppose it is seconded and suppose it is carried. Then you would have the words you have just read opposed to the words in Article 10—"The Governor of the colony, the senior naval and military officers, and such other persons as the stewards in their discretion think fit shall be invited to become honorary members of the Club, and to act as stewards during the racing season." It is not consistent.

Mr. MASTER—Quite so; I quite agree. Then I can call a meeting to eliminate rule 10. I propose that those words shall be added unless the stewards say now that they will confine their invitations to the Governor, the senior naval officer, and the senior military officer. So far as I am concerned, if the stewards give that assurance it will be satisfactory; but if the stewards are going to try to carry this resolution to-night and to keep 10, then, without in any way wishing to oppose military officers being elected—I am in favour of it—I shall at this meeting vote against it in order that rule 9 and rule 10 may come up later and be put together in the way I suggest. Let us have as few invitation stewards as possible. We do not want to have stewards merely to look at; we want to have stewards who are capable of managing the affairs of this Club. (Applause.) There was once a most flagrant piece of behaviour on the part of a man who is not now on the race course, and what was done? Nothing for a fortnight, and then there was a meeting at the Hongkong Hotel. That is not right; such matters must be dealt with on the spot. That is why I say our stewards should be gentlemen who have a knowledge of and who take great interest in racing and who are prepared to deal at once with anyone guilty of malpractices. The accused may be a man without the slightest slur on his character and he would want the stewards to say on the spot which side was in the right. (Applause.)

Major-General BLACK—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, as the individual who brought to the notice of the stewards the disqualifying words, I was asked to give my consent to this amendment, probably because if I did not object to the exclusion of five or six military officers from honorary stewardship under rule 10 it was quite probable that no one else would. I cannot follow Mr. Master in all his arguments, but in asking you to remove the disqualifying words I think we give up a good deal more than we get, we are putting ourselves in a

worse position, because this year there were seven army officers appointed during the races. That was too many; it was utterly absurd, and according to Mr. Master's amendment there will in future be only three. The words do not carry out the character of the welcome which you always accord to us in every way. There seems to be a fatal power in the amendment proposed by Mr. Master, but still I think the stewards may consider the suggestion. I think you should endeavour if possible to have a military steward at the meeting. Amongst the ten elected to-day there might be one who would retire in a short time in favour of a military officer and then you will get over the difficulty and there will be peace and harmony every after. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—As I pointed out to Mr. Master whilst he was speaking, we are assembled here only to consider the alteration of article No. 9. I think from what has been expressed here that we are pretty nearly all unanimous that the words should be expunged from rule No. 9. (Applause.) The amendment that Mr. Master attempted to carry, as I pointed out to him, would be perfectly inconsistent with No. 10 existing; consequently the amendment ought to be withdrawn. The alteration of No. 10, as I also pointed out to him, cannot take place at the present meeting; but, as he rightly observed, if No. 10 is an article which you would like to have altered, it can very easily be done in the same manner as we are now altering No. 9. Therefore, I do not think he should stand in the way of the passing of the article No. 9. Now in regard to No. 10, although that is not quite within the province of this meeting, yet I may tell you that when the stewards were assembled and considering about the alteration of article No. 9 they did not lose sight of No. 10. I myself brought forward that article and we discussed it very thoroughly and came to the conclusion that it would be better to leave it as it is. Gentlemen, I will give you the reason why; in fact I may say that my reason has been anticipated by the remarks of Mr. Master himself. It very often occurs that we have here amongst us our friends from Shanghai—old stewards, gentlemen who have been very often acting as judges in the boxes, and the reason I make that point is because I recollect myself that during the past ten or twelve years when I have been appointed judge I have asked members from Shanghai—old stewards—to act with me. If article No. 10 is altered as Mr. Master would like to have it, namely, confining the stewards—I say confining the honorary stewards only to three officers—His Excellency the Governor, His Excellency the General, and His Excellency the Admiral—then we, the stewards, have absolutely no power to invite those gentlemen from Shanghai or any other renowned judge for the meeting. Consequently the best course would be to leave article No. 10 as it is. But the stewards have never lost sight of the point that Mr. Master has made. Now, if article No. 9 is altered, military officers will be eligible and will no doubt be elected. If they are elected then we say accordingly that we can limit the number by virtue of Article 10, but to take away the power altogether is inadvisable. These were the reasons brought forward at the meeting of the stewards, and it was on that account we did not bring it forward. Mr. Master asks us if we will give an assurance that we will not invite so many honorary military men. Isn't that so?

Mr. MASTER—Yes. Having regard to the fact that no military officer can be elected at the general meeting which is to be held in a few minutes I did not ask the stewards to limit their invitation to merely the Governor, the senior naval officer, and the senior military officer during the next racing week.

The CHAIRMAN—As I was saying, Mr. Master would like a promise from us that at all events we will not appoint as many military officers honorary stewards as we did last year. I have just casually consulted my colleagues and we cannot give you any promise whatever. The stewards are to be elected to-day; you are to elect new stewards, but no doubt Mr. Master's and his Excellency's remarks will be noted and the stewards elected will certainly

give heed to their wishes, especially as I see they are the wishes of the members present. (Applause.) Mr. Master, is that satisfactory?

Mr. MASTER—You have taken my objection, but I am not sure that General Black seconded my amendment. If he did not, of course the amendment falls to the ground. I personally am quite content to leave the matter to the discretion of the stewards. I do not think they will go and invite the same number of gentlemen as they did last year, and although the Chairman said the stewards would all retire, as a matter of fact they will probably be re-elected, and I think, after what has fallen from the Chairman, if the stewards mean to consider the matter I am quite content to leave it to them. I am in favour of the alteration to rule 9 and I shall vote for it. After what has fallen from the Chairman I shall not move in calling another meeting until another year has passed. The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting was then held.

The CLERK OF THE COURSE read the notice calling the meeting and also the report and accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—During the course of my remarks at last year's meeting, I said that I thought that our then existing debit balance of some \$7,000 would be wiped out in the course of the year. My anticipations, I am pleased to think, have turned out correct, for if you will examine the figures you will find that though there appears a balance to the debit of \$10,580.09, yet there is an item in our expenditure of \$11,077.45 for the new stables which does not belong to the actual racing account. Deducting one sum from the other, we find that as regards the amounts actually spent on and received from racing, we have not only wiped out the debit of last year, but are about \$500 to the good. (Applause.) This proves that our receipts continue to augment, and I am especially pleased that the item "Entries and Nominations" shows an increase of just about \$2,000, for it proves that the larger stakes offered, and the more extended encouragement we have given to small stables, have had the effect we hoped for. We were certainly unfortunate in our weather last meeting, but the rain did not seem to damp the sporting enthusiasm of Hongkong, for I think you will agree with me that, except in this respect, it was a very successful one, fields being large and racing good. I really think that in this connection we owe to our military friends a considerable debt of gratitude, for by their keenness and sportsman-like spirit they have appreciably added to the go of our meetings, and we only regret that so many of them are leaving us so soon. May they be replaced by as good sportsmen. (Applause.) You will have been glad to hear that the new stables will be ready by next meeting, though the stewards regret to inform you that the contract price will be larger than that which I gave you at last meeting, \$28,250 instead of \$25,000. I believe that complaints have been made that they will detract from the picturesqueness of the course, but in a case like this, where it is a question of averting a terrible danger, the aesthetic must yield to the useful. (Applause.) You have at this meeting to decide whether the Gymkhanas shall be held for next year under the same arrangements as last, namely, managed by the Gymkhana Committee, under the auspices of the Jockey Club. This plan seems to work very well, and the meetings have given a considerable amount of interest and pleasure to the community in general, besides to those who are actually engaged in them. On the whole, I think our prospects are as bright as they ever were, and I am sure that all of us will do our utmost, according as we may be able, to make our meeting of next year a bumper success. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and the Treasurer's accounts as presented to you.

Mr. LEWIS—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, and I congratulate the stewards upon the successful working of the year which has just passed. I think we can without any exaggeration hope for an even more successful season if the weather is only more propitious. (Applause.)

Carried.

On the proposition of Mr. MASTER seconded by Mr. HART BUCK, it was resolved to hold next's Gymkhanas under the auspices that prevailed last year.

Dr. NOBLE called attention to the services rendered by the acting Clerk of the Course during the absence of the Clerk of the Course and hoped he would be elected as a steward.

During the election of the stewards Major-General BLACK said he thought they were really postponing to the Greek Kalends by putting off the election of a military officer for the present year. If some gentlemen would allow himself to be nominated and then retire on the 14th of this month a military officer could take his place and there would be a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Mody was quite willing to allow himself to be nominated. (Loud laughter.)

The following stewards were elected—Hons. J. J. Bell-Irving, C. P. Chater, T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. A. Coxon, R. M. Gray, F. Harton, T. Jackson, F. H. May, D. Gillies, and M. Grote.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE REPORT.

The following is the report presented—

The Stewards beg herewith to submit to the members the Treasurer's accounts, which they consider to be satisfactory.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the meeting of 1895, a contract has been made for the erection of permanent brick stables in the enclosure in lieu of the temporary matcheds. Good progress has been made with this work, which will be completed by about the end of the year.

Gymkhanas, managed by the Gymkhana Committee, and under the auspices of the Jockey Club, have been held on the race course. Considerable interest has been manifested in them, and they have proved a distinct boon to the community.

The wet weather at this year's meeting caused the course to be considerably cut up; but it has been carefully looked after, and is now in capital condition.

The roof of the grand stand suffered some damage from the typhoon in July, which, however, it was found possible to repair at very small cost.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 28th September, 1896.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 30th September to consider a number of new by-laws. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. H. B. H. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary.)

ILLNESS OF DR. AYRES.

The PRESIDENT regretted to announce that Dr. Ayres was unable to attend the meeting on account of illness.

THE SANITARY MAINTENANCE OF OPIUM DIVANS.

The Board then considered and recommended by-laws relating to the sanitary maintenance of opium divans. The by-laws provide for the inspection of every opium divan by one of the Board's officers, who shall submit a report to the Board on the sanitary condition of the premises and their suitability for use as an opium divan. The opium divans must be substantially built and in a good state of repair; the ground surfaces must be covered with good lime or cement concrete, at least six inches thick, and there must be an adequate water supply, &c. No opium divan shall be used for the accommodation of a greater number of persons than that specified in a notice between midnight and 5 a.m. on the following morning. The premises must be properly ventilated and thoroughly cleansed and also limewashed twice a year, and the keeper must, without delay, report at the office of the Sanitary Board every case of illness upon the premises and must facilitate the removal of the sick person and adopt all such precautions as the Medical Officer of Health or other duly authorised officer of the Sanitary Board shall direct.

THE RECENT ACTIONS AGAINST THE SANITARY BOARD.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

The following report by the Medical Officer of Health having reference to the recent actions at law against the Sanitary Board has been submitted:—

Sanitary Board Offices,
Hongkong, 4th September, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that the finding of His Honour Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, in an action brought against the Board in July last to recover damages for the removal of portions of certain cocklofts, was as follows:—"I am of opinion that the removal of any portion of the joists or any portion of the cocklofts taken down was certainly not within the powers of the Board, and that constitutes a misfeasance which converts the legal entry, the original lawful entry of the officers of the Sanitary Board, into trespass *ab initio*," and commenting upon this decision the Hon. the Acting Attorney-General writes that, "The Acting Puisne Judge decided that the removal of boards from off the premises, whether clean or dirty, was an illegal act and rendered the Sanitary Board trespassers *ab initio*."

It is upon this decision that the Crown Solicitor admitted trespass in the more recent actions for damages taken by the occupiers of Nos. 88 and 90, Bonham Strand, against the Board.

It will be within the recollection of the members of the Board that at a meeting held on February 27th of this year, the western portion of the city was declared to be affected by plague, under by-law 22 made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, and the resolution of the Board authorized "the Medical Officer of Health and his staff to make a house to house visitation within that portion of the City bounded on the North by the Praya, on the South by Caine and Bonham Roads, on the East by Wyndham Street, and on the West by the Western boundaries of Marine Lot No. 184 and Inland Lot No. 833 for the purposes stated in the by-law referred to," and at about the same date a number of European and Chinese constables were temporarily transferred to the Board for the purposes of this house to house inspection and cleansing, while application was also made to the Military Authorities for the loan of a few soldiers to perform similar duties under the supervision of the constables and Inspectors of Nuisances.

On 2nd April a further resolution was passed by the Board declaring the Eastern division of the city to be similarly affected by plague, and additional men were obtained from the Police Department and from the Military Authorities for work in that portion of the city.

On April 9th the Board appointed under the provisions of Ordinance 11 of 1895 a Select Committee, consisting of the President, the Captain Superintendent of Police, and the Medical Officer of Health, to supervise and arrange all matters connected with the cleansing and limewashing of houses, and also the house to house visitation within the areas infected by "bubonic plague," and the work was carried on throughout under the personal supervision of this Select Committee.

The services of the soldiers were dispensed with by a resolution of the Board under date of June 4th and of the European and Chinese constables on July 18th.

That portion of by-law 22 under which the work of cleansing and disinfection was carried out reads as follows:—"If the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition in the opinion of the officer making such visitation, he may forthwith take steps to have the same thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by the staff of the said Board, or by contractors or others specially appointed for that purpose," and I gave it as my opinion, both during the cleansing operations and when called as a witness in the actions taken against the Board, that the taking down and the removal of dirty and rotten cocklofts was essential to the thorough cleansing and disinfection of the premises.

His Honour Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, however, read by-law 22, which relates to periods

when an epidemic is raging in the colony, and the action to be taken to disinfect and cleanse premises under such circumstances, with by-laws 23 and 24, which I, in common with other members of the Board, have always considered as relating to the action to be taken in dealing with articles which have been in contact with sporadic cases of an infectious disease; by-law 24 states that, when "in the opinion" *duly certified in writing* of a duly authorized officer of the Sanitary Board, any article cannot be effectively disinfected or ought for any sanitary reason to be destroyed, it shall be destroyed in such manner and in such place and with such precautions as the said Board may from time to time direct," and because Mr. Sercombe Smith reads these by-laws together, and the officers of the Board duly authorized to carry out the house to house inspection and cleansing did not certify in writing that in their opinion these filthy cocklofts "ought for sanitary reasons to be destroyed," the Board and its officers, after working night and day to check the ravages of one of the most terrible and fatal of diseases known to modern science, and when their efforts have at last, but at the cost of several valuable lives, been crowned with success, are cast in damages for this technical breach of a by-law which, owing apparently to its clumsy wording, has failed to give to the Board those powers which under the Ordinance it is legally entitled to wield.

I would also direct the attention of the Board to the fact that practically the same men were employed this year to stamp out the epidemic as were employed in 1894 by the Permanent Committee, and not unnaturally the measures which they adopted to effect the cleansing and disinfection of premises were not dissimilar to those adopted in 1894, when no such powers existed for the purpose, and it was only natural to suppose therefore that an Ordinance and by-laws drafted specially to deal with similar epidemics would contain all the powers which were felt to be so necessary in 1894, and the assumption of which by the Permanent Committee could only be legalized by the insertion in the said Ordinance of section 16.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS W. CLARK,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

The Secretary attached the following note:—

The exceptional measures taken this year to combat bubonic plague were no doubt in a very great measure based upon the knowledge and experience gained in 1894, but, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the work was carried out in a very much less drastic manner. Had the same whitewashing remedy been adopted this year as was taken in 1894 these actions could not have been taken.

As shown by the rapidity of many of the deaths and the high percentage of mortality, the disease was quite as malignant this year as it was in 1894. It is certainly a matter for regret that the line of action to be taken by the Board's servants should have been carried out in such a manner that the Supreme Court of the colony has decided to be illegal. At the same time, it should be steadily borne in mind that the actions taken were considered necessary in the interests of the public health of the Colony and were thought to be perfectly legal by those in charge of the work. At the date on which these Bonham Strand houses were cleaned the number of cases reported daily averaged 12, and in the face of what occurred in 1894, no sensible man would at that time have hesitated to proceed with the work of cleansing dirty dwellings so that he might have time to think out nice points of law. This is of course emphasized when it is remembered that where premises were reasonably clean the removal of woodwork even where it stood in an illegal form would not have been necessary. To my mind, therefore, the real fault lay in the *ab initio* dirty habits of the occupants of these dwellings and the dirty condition of the premises in which they existed.

Unless the factor "Cure by faith" is admitted, it is absurd to suppose that the medicinal value of the ginseng, which the Court has found to be damaged, was affected in any way by the rough handling it is asserted to have sustained at the hands of the Board's

servants. That its commercial value was reduced seems quite clear, and that no doubt in a commercial community is a factor of far more importance than its medicinal value.

THE CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

NEW BY-LAWS.

The Sanitary Board have been considering a number of new by-laws made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, and they will be brought up at the next meeting of the Board. One of the by-laws having reference to the cleansing and disinfection of premises is as follows:—

"The officers of the Sanitary Board duly authorized in writing may in any district affected by any of the aforesaid diseases, and within such limits as may from time to time be defined by the said Board, make a house to house visitation for the purpose of inspecting the sanitary condition of any premises so visited and of all and every part thereof, and of ascertaining whether there is any person in or upon the said premises attacked or affected by any of the said diseases or the body of any person who has died therefrom. If the premises so visited or any part thereof shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition in the opinion of the officer making such visitation, he may forthwith take steps to have the same thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by the officers of the said Board or by coolies acting under the instruction of the said officers; and whenever, in the opinion of the officer making such visitation, it is necessary for the thorough cleansing and disinfection of the premises to take down, remove from the premises, and destroy any mezzanine floors, cocklofts, partitions, screens, or other similar structures or fittings, or any portion thereof, or when in the opinion of the officer making such visitation any such mezzanine floors, cocklofts, partitions, screens, or other similar structures or fittings prevent the free access of light and air to the said premises, he shall forthwith have the same taken down, and if he considers the removal from the premises and the destruction thereof necessary in the interests of the public health, he shall forthwith cause the same to be removed from the premises and destroyed. Such destruction shall be carried out with such precautions and in such manner and in such places as the said Board may from time to time direct. Any dead body found on such premises shall be forthwith removed for burial, and any person attacked or affected by any such disease shall be taken to the *Hygeia* or to such other public hospital, whether temporary or permanent, as may be from time to time appointed by the said Board for this purpose, unless the Medical Officer of Health or any other medical practitioner duly authorised by the Board certifies that such person is lodged and cared for without danger to the public health."

THE GRANITE PUNCHING NUISANCE.

THE CONTRACTOR CONVICTED.

At the Police Court on the 29th Sept. A Hok, a contractor in the employ of the Public Works Department, was again summoned for dressing or causing to be dressed granite within the city of Victoria on the 26th and 28th Sept. when such dressing could have been executed at the quarry without rendering the granite liable to injury during transport to the place where it was required for use. The summons was taken out at the instance of Mr. A. G. Morris, 69 Wyndham Street. Mr. Denny appeared for the defendant and the complainant conducted his own case.

Mr. Morris, in addressing the Magistrate, said that as the defence had employed a solicitor he trusted the Magistrate would give him every facility to examine the witnesses, he should bring forward and to cross-examine the witnesses for the other side. He would call expert witnesses to prove that the statements made by Mr. Tooker were utterly untrue.

Mr. Denny, I strongly object to any evidence being given in regard to Saturday's case. The Magistrate ruled that Mr. Morris must

confine himself to the dates mentioned in the summons.

Continuing, Mr. Morris said that any schoolboy reading the Ordinance would understand that it referred to dressing granite in any street, thoroughfare, or any place adjacent thereto. Arbutnot Road, where the granite was dressed, was immediately opposite his house and the stone was brought from the quarry in its roughest state.

Mr. Morris then went into the witness box and being sworn said—I live at 69, Wyndham Street. On Saturday, the 26th inst., I was disturbed by stone breaking and stone chipping which commenced at seven o'clock in the morning in Arbutnot Road opposite my house. The noise irritated and upset me. The nuisance is still going on, and although the bulk of the rough stones was removed to the Police compound on Saturday there are the workmen working on the wall immediately above the road, so that the nuisance is as great as ever to me.

In answer to the Magistrate witness said—I have shipped stones in large quantities for the Manila Government. They have been rough-punched and fine-picked and many of the coping stones weighed three tons. All were dressed at various quarries in the colony. I received very few complaints and those were about the "pitchers." The facing on both sides was fine-picked. I shipped about 10,000 tons. The granite the men were working on the 26th was as rough as when taken from the quarry. On Saturday afternoon I went with Mr. Danby and picked up some of the chips that had been cut-off. I then went to the Police Station and saw Inspector Wittchell, who, however, could not leave the station, and P.C. Gilmore accompanied me to the spot and picked up more stones.

The witness was not cross-examined.

Mr. Thomas Arnold gave corroborating evidence. He added that the nuisance had been intensified during the last four or five days; it was positively unbearable.

Mr. T. L. Rose, who lives at 57, Wyndham Street, and P.C. Gilmore also gave evidence, the latter producing stone chippings which he had picked up. Five blocks appeared to have been dressed elsewhere.

In answer to Mr. Dennys Gilmore said there were no chips alongside those blocks.

Mr. William Danby said—I am a civil engineer and have been upwards of twenty years in the colony. I have had experience in the working of granite and the Government regulations with reference to the working of granite. On Saturday afternoon last, at 2.30, I went with Mr. Morris to inspect the work being done on the new steps in Arbutnot Road. I found a very large quantity of granite, fine-punched, rough-punched, and stonemason's dressings of the stones. There was also a very large number of stones just as they were cut from the quarry. On the east side of the road those stones measured from about 2ft. 6 in. to 3ft. in length, and from about 10 in. to 14 in. square. There were nine such stones on that side interspersed with other stones which had been touched. Those nine stones had no marks on them except the marks of wedges. On the west side I counted thirty-three stones that had not been touched with a tool or chisel and on top of the wall there were six more rough stones, all about the same size—a total of forty-eight rough stones brought over from the quarry. There were fourteen masons dressing stones, several of whom were dressing the rough stones. The stones which the men were working upon I did not count. Several of the stones had been marked out for trimming. I measured several of them. The lines showed that it was intended to cut off from 1 inch to 5 inches in depth. About 8.30 on Monday morning I visited the place again and I found that the rough stones had been taken to the top of an alleyway about five feet wide between the Superintendent's quarters and the new police quarters. I counted eighteen men at work upon them; and the noise was deafening, far more than on Saturday, owing to the work being carried on in the narrow alleyway. On Monday I observed four men splitting two stones with wedges just the same as is done at the quarry. I saw no work being done on Saturday and Monday which could not have been done easily at the quarry. Had the work

been private work I have no hesitation in saying it would not have been permitted. I have had experience in dressed stones. On Sunday morning last 50 to 60 large stones, about four feet long and extra fine punched, were landed on the Praya from Shaukiwan without being injured. They were for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's new offices. I have shipped very large and extra fine punched and with elaborately carved moulding to Singapore. They were shipped from here and they arrived intact. Most of the fine-punched stone work of the Chartered Bank, Connaught House, and the new Chartered Bank was all dressed elsewhere. You are not allowed to dress in the Street. There is not the least difficulty in having the stones in Arbutnot Road dressed at the quarry; it was not elaborate work, as they were only dressed on one side. There is more work on a kerb stone than on one of those stones and kerb stones are invariably dressed at the quarry.

In answer to Mr. Morris witness said—I know dressed stone has been landed on the new Praya and carried from there by coolies to the Peak.

By Mr. Dennys—I refer to Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s place, "The Mount." I have seen from my house in Queen's Gardens the stones being carried up. I do not know whether the stones were injured or what noise was made. The men who blast the stone are not the men who work up the stone; most of them live near the quarries. I have never had any difficulty in getting men to dress the stone at the quarries. All the Praya stones are dressed at the quarries. I do not say that fine-dressed stone is not liable to injury; if they are carefully handled they would not be liable to injury. Small stones like these would not be liable to injury if thrown into a junk. It is inferior work altogether. Putting aside the stones which I saw split the forty-eight stones I referred to were not cut. They were not square; they were just split at the quarries. I do not think there is so much noise in fine punching as rough punching. In fine punching there is only tapping. The noise made by fine punching is not great, but the noise made by sledge hammers which I saw used is very great. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was partly built of granite. I do not think it was dressed on the spot. To the best of my recollection it was not all dressed on the spot. I built the New Victoria Hotel and the granite used in that building was only trimmed on the spot. It was fine-dressed on the Praya. All the columns, panels, and mouldings were finished off on the Praya with the exception of the actual setting of the stones. It was the same with the Connaught House. I had nothing to do with the erection of the Jubilee statue. That is Government work and the Government can do work that we cannot do.

The Magistrate (warmly)—Please confine yourself to the evidence. I will not have those comments made.

Continuing, witness said—I do not know whether the granite work was destroyed. The Committee were of opinion that the stone was broken in the godown. The stone is very soft and different from granite. At home a chisel is used to dress granite; the Chinese use big punches. It does not necessarily follow that there must be a nuisance whenever any building was put up; there need only be a noise in the trimming of the stones.

By the Magistrate—The stones in Arbutnot Road would weigh when dressed from one to two cwt.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Dennys, for the defence, submitted that the regulation which was published with the Ordinance was absolutely illegal, as it was not in compliance with the terms of the Ordinance. The Ordinance 10 of 1872 referred to rough dressing, whereas there was no regulation before the Court as to rough dressing. The regulation contained the words: "Every person shall be deemed to be guilty of a nuisance who shall dress or cause to be dressed granite or other stone." There was a vast difference between rough dressing and dressing. Of course the defendant did not wish to rely upon the legal point. Witnesses would be called to prove, in spite of what had been given in evidence, that it had never been the custom in the colony to dress granite at the quarries. In one case it had been done, but the person doing it

had suffered severely. In reference to the other cases, it was well known that the Jubilee statue was broken. Scarcely anything was saved by dressing at the quarry instead of at the spot. Of course where there were large stones, such as shafts or pillars, that could be carried straight from the quarry and put into position, the case was different.

Mr. Clement Palmer was then called. He said—I am a partner in the firm of Palmer and Turner. I have been in Hongkong over fourteen years. Speaking generally, during those fourteen years the customary place for dressing granite is on the spot near the building. When doing a small job, such as that in Arbutnot Road, the noise would be the same whether the stones were dressed on the spot or in the quarry. Of course it would take longer to do the job on the spot, but the noise would be the same. I have been the architect for several buildings in the colony. The stone for the Hongkong and Shanghai bank was dressed near the spot. The granite for the new Hongkong Club is being dressed on the spot. I am building The Mount at the Peak. Granite is worked on the spot there; certain portions of columns have been dressed elsewhere, somewhere near Kowloon City. They were brought in a junk to Hongkong and then carried by coolies to the Peak. Special precautions were taken to protect them and they suffered very slightly. They were wrapped round with straw. In my opinion granite dressed in the quarry and sent to Hongkong is liable to injury. If the stones were small enough to be thrown in the junk they would be more liable to injury.

The Magistrate—Why not hand them into the junk?

Witness—We all know what Chinamen are; they would not carefully lay every stone down. If the stone is thrown in it must be broken, especially if there is a sharp edge.

The Magistrate—But suppose ordinary care is taken as is taken with cargo, a case of glass, for instance.

Witness—It is a question if you will get it out of the hold unbroken. These Chinamen are not careful. If the corners are sharp they are bound to be broken when one stone is thrown on the top of another. The stone could not be dressed at the quarry so as to absolutely fit in position on arrival. It would have to be dressed.

Mr. Dennys—Would there be any difference between the noise if the stone was partly dressed at the quarry?

Witness—It would not take so long on this side, but there would be a similar noise. Of course you would save labour. There are a certain number of masons in the quarries who dress stone. As a rule they do not dress the stone. Some of the stones in Arbutnot Road are in their roughest state.

Cross-examined by Mr. Morris—The stones certainly could have been prepared at the quarry up to a certain point. They certainly could have been dressed at the quarry, brought here, and fitted in after being trimmed off. The stones for the new Club are cut at the quarry just about the required size. There is no one in the vicinity of the Praya to annoy, but I think it is a most annoying noise at any time; I do not care where it is. I have never seen it done at the quarry before. I admit it can be done if you take the risk. There is an immense lot of dressing done on the spot.

Mr. Morris—Two wrongs don't make a right. Witness—The work could be carried a further stage at the quarry, but it is not; that is all.

By Mr. Dennys—There was nothing unusual about the work being done in the street.

The Magistrate—Would there be any liability to damage in bringing the stones over?

Witness—Yes, if there was carelessness; if you dropped one heavy stone on to another.

The Magistrate—Is it necessary to throw the stones in?

Witness—It is not absolutely necessary, but there are always accidents in the best work.

Mr. H. P. Tooker, executive engineer in the Public Works Department, said—There is nothing special in the way the work in Arbutnot Road is being done, and there is no more noise there than on other jobs. During the seven years I have been here it has always been usual for Government stone work to be dressed

on the spot; that applies not only to the defendant but to all Government contractors. If the stones in Arbuthnot Road had been dressed at the quarry they would have been most liable to injury in transport. I say that because they are dressed to a very fine edge, top and bottom. Their size renders them liable to be thrown about. On Saturday I instructed the contractor to take the rough stones in the police compound to be dressed. I did that at the request of Mr. Rose, but I cannot say the noise has diminished. A good deal of the stone of the Jubilee statue was injured and had to be re-dressed. In the base some granite was substituted. Mr. Morris was very lucky if he sent a large quantity of fine-dressed granite to Manila without its being injured.

By Mr. Morris—If I was doing this work I should not consider I was creating a nuisance or acting contrary to the regulations. I admit the stones might have been prepared to a certain extent at the quarries. The contractor would have to pay much more if the stone was prepared at the quarry. I consider any man lucky who sends stone from Hongkong to Manila without injuring it.

Mr. Denny again addressed his Worship and submitted that the prosecution had not made out their case. There was no reason for suggesting that Mr. Palmer and Mr. Tooker were not telling the truth, and they both said the work was carried on in precisely the same way as such work had been carried on for many years past; and it would be most unfair if the Magistrate went out of his way to select this contractor—

The Magistrate—I did not select him.

Continuing, Mr. Denny said the contractor was doing no more than anyone else in the colony and had caused only a necessary nuisance.

Mr. Morris replied to Mr. Denny's legal point and said that Mr. Tooker had admitted the contractor would be put to extra expense if the stone was dressed at the quarry. If the public of Hongkong was to be put to inconvenience and annoyance because a contractor may lose a little money then the sooner the Ordinance was fully enforced the better. Many people had not the time or inclination to come forward—as he had that day, and mail day, too—and institute proceedings. The continuous ring of the punching went through his head, and it was not right that he and his neighbours should be punished because the contractor wanted to save some money.

The Magistrate—In the first place, as far as the legal aspect of the case goes, I have not the slightest hesitation in over-ruling Mr. Denny's objection. Expert evidence has been given on both sides and as the experts have been diametrically opposed to each other I have no hesitation in disregarding the whole lot of it and acting from a common sense point of view. The earliest precedent is that of King Solomon's temple at Jerusalem and the latest one Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's office being built on the Praya by Mr. Danby, where the stones are being cut and prepared for their places at the quarry, as also is the stone for Mr. Bell-Irving's house, 'The Mount,' being built by Mr. Palmer. There seems to be no question that stone can be dressed up to a certain point at the quarry, and if it is not intended that stone shall be dressed away from the colony the whole of this Ordinance falls to the ground. The defendant will be fined \$10.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong Football Club was held in the Cricket Pavilion on the 30th September. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided, and at the commencement of the proceedings there were eight members present altogether.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the largely attended meetings showed what a keen interest was taken by supporters of the game in Hongkong. One would imagine on seeing such a big attendance that a most popular cup tie was being played. The people were to be congratulated upon turning out in such large numbers. (Applause.) The report showed very satisfactory results in all respects. In the first place there was a credit balance of \$121, and so far as the football record was concerned it was the best they had been able to show since

Hongkong had a football club. The Association results were highly satisfactory, but the results in the Rugby games were more satisfactory still. The Rugby team carried everything before them, although they had to contend against teams of a very high order, and he was sure they would all agree they were good players, of the type of Lieutenant Kaye and other similar high-flyers in the Rugby game. It was hoped that the club would have to play against similar teams this year and that the Admiral would bring the fleet down at the end of the month. Before the football season proceeded very far they would lose the regiment which is now in Hongkong. He was certain that the football club would regret the departure of the Rifle Brigade, as the members had shown themselves full of sport. It was understood that the present regiment was to be succeeded by a Yorkshire regiment, and if the members of that regiment possessed the sporting proclivities which it was well known that their county of Yorkshire possessed they would be a valuable addition to all the sporting clubs in the colony. He was sure the members would join with him in regretting the approaching departure of the Rifle Brigade and expressing the hope that wherever they went they would flourish as well as they had done in the past. (Applause.) The Chairman then expressed thanks to the captains of the Association and Rugby teams for the energetic manner in which they had devoted themselves to getting up teams. He regretted the loss of Mr. Firth, an excellent Association player. Hongkong's loss would be Shanghai's gain, as no doubt he would show Shanghai how to perform in football matches.

Mr. P. G. DAVIES then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. SLADE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. MACKAY proposed, and Mr. DAVIES seconded, the election of Mr. Looker as captain of the Association team.

Carried.

Mr. LOOKER said he would do his best to advance the interests of the club with his head and feet.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. F. Browne had been a most active hon. secretary and if he would consent to act his re-election would be carried by acclamation.

Mr. BROWNE said he would be very pleased to accept the appointment again and he was unanimously elected.

Mr. E. E. DEACON was elected hon. treasurer.

Mr. G. H. POTTS was elected captain of the Rugby team, the Chairman remarking that Mr. Potts was an old hand at the game, but antiquity did not seem to have the least effect on his energy. (Laughter.)

Mr. P. G. DAVIES proposed the re-election of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart as President, and said that Mr. Lockhart was on the field more often than anyone else except the playing members, and as he had always taken a keen interest in the sport members could not do better than re-elect him.

Mr. GRIMBLE seconded.

Carried.

The PRESIDENT returned thanks and said he hoped the Club would repeat last year's successes during the forthcoming season.

The following gentlemen were then elected on the Committee—Messrs. Mackay, Wood, Davies, Slade, and Dr. Atkinson.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR OCTOBER:

Mr. M. Stewart	102	18	84
Mr. C. A. Tomes	101	15	86
Mr. C. E. Hume	97	8	89
Mr. C. H. Grace	103	12	91
Mr. G. Stewart	96	4	92
Mr. C. Palmer	107	11	96
Mr. W. J. Saunders	116	18	98

10 other players made no return.

The Pool was also won by Mr. M. Stewart. Members whose handicaps are over 16 are reminded that the entries for the Duffer's Cup close on the 14th October.

WALLACE CUP COMPETITION.

The above competition took place at the 200, 400, and 500 yards on Saturday. Sergeant MacPhail won the Cup for the fifth time with the splendid score of 90. The following are a few of the best scores—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handicap	Total
Sergeant MacPhail	27	35	28	scr.	90
Lieutenant Macdonald	30	25	26	3	84
Corporal Henderson	27	31	25	scr.	83
Gunner White	31	31	18	3	83
Gunner Stewart	29	29	23	scr.	81
Corporal Ewing	25	21	28	6	80

SINGAPORE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The following is the report of the liquidators presented at the special general meeting of shareholders, which was to be held at Singapore on the 1st October—

We have now the pleasure of presenting the accounts from the 20th February, 1894, to 10th September, 1896. No further dividend has been declared since last meeting, the liquidators not feeling justified in distributing any more of the funds until all the claims on the Company had been settled. All known claims having now been met, and the liquidators not anticipating that there are any more to come forward, the necessary steps to close the liquidation are now being taken, and it is hoped that a further and final dividend will be announced within a few months.

JOHN F. CRAIG,
JOHN FRASER,
J. P. JOAQUIM.

LIABILITIES.

Capital	\$583,520
Less amount returned	481,404
	\$102,116
Reserve fund	11,875
Unclaimed	2,304
	\$116,295

ASSETS.

Cash and current accounts	\$2,892
Fixed deposits	48,782
London agents	41
Sundry debtors	425
Profit and loss account	64,164
	\$116,295

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance	\$59,931
To losses	5,708
To sundry debtors written off as irrecoverable—	
New Oriental Bank Corporation	\$206
D. Donaldson	412
Lum Leong	4
Wee Kim Yam	461
Tan Keng Cheow	498
	1,583
To 4th dividend (prior to liquidation)—	
Paid 6th September, 1895	35
To expenses of liquidation—	
Legal expenses	\$41
Commission—sale of property	57
Rent, salaries, and office expenses	3,760
	3,859
	\$71,117

By interest	\$4,844
By bad debts recovered	123
By exchange adjustment account	1,732
By profit on shares	252
By balance	64,164
	\$71,117

(Cents have been omitted.)

Commenting on the above the *Straits Times* says:—

The substance of the matter is that the liquidators have \$52,000 in hand, which is divisible between 29,176 shares. That should mean a dividend of about \$1.75 per share. The liquidators state that all known claims have been met, that no further claims are anticipated, and that they hope a further and final dividend will be announced within a few months. The last is an unsatisfactory statement. Why should a further dividend be delayed for a few months? Between the date of the report at present under discussion and the date of the previous report, there has been an interval of two and a half years. The whole amount of losses paid during these two and a half years amounts

to less than \$6,000, and the whole amount of debts recovered during these two and a half years amounts to \$123. In substance, there seems no reason why the liquidators should not have paid an additional dollar a share at least two years ago; and it is difficult to comprehend why they should not now more quickly pay up at least a dollar and a half a share. The statement that "the necessary steps to close the liquidation are now being taken" seems a trifle lame when it is known that these steps might have been taken some months previously. The excuse which has lasted the liquidators for a very, very long period is about a certain claim which it was convenient to allow to run off by lapse of time. But that lapse of time took place some months ago, and there seems no reason why the steps that are now promised should not already have been taken. We say there seems no reason, because, of course, it is conceivable that the liquidators may have some sufficient reason which they will disclose to the shareholders at the meeting on the 1st October. But if, on the 1st October, they do not disclose such a reason, the impression left on the minds of the public will be that the liquidation of the Singapore Insurance Company has been unduly delayed.

THE DISPLACEMENT OF FOREIGN GOODS IN COCHIN-CHINA.

We translate the following from the *Courrier de Saigon*:-

Further documents have reached us respecting the importation of French and foreign piece goods in Cochin-China. They confirm what we said on a previous occasion concerning the increasing part taken by French industry in this important branch of the trade of the colony.

During the month of May the importation of unbleached cotton goods amounted to 67,209 kilog., and that of bleached cottons to 86,847 kilog. The share of France was, for unbleached goods, 66,766 kilog., that is to say, nearly the whole. Her share of bleached goods was 59,769 kilog., or 68 per cent. of the total importation.

If we compare the importation of cotton goods in Cochin-China for the first five months of 1896 with the same period of the preceding year we find a very considerable difference between the two. In unbleached goods French importations have risen from 100,485 kilog. during the first five months of 1895 to 369,292 kilog. during the same period of last year, while foreign goods have fallen from 456,232 kilog. in 1895 to 3,615 kilog. in the same period of 1896. The movement is of the same nature, though less accentuated, in white goods. During the first five months of this year the importation of French goods amounted to 335,526 kilog. as against 145,771 kilog. during the same period of 1895, while foreign goods fell from 492,767 kilog. in 1895 to 349,234 in 1896.

To sum up, if we compare the total importation of cotton goods in Cochin-China during the first five months of the two years we find that the share taken by French goods, which was 20½ per cent. in 1895, amounts to 66 per cent. this year. The progression has been greater during the latter part of the term than during the first four months, for at the end of April the share of France was only 64 per cent. of the total.

The efforts put forth by our cotton industry continue, then, to bear fruit, for it is rapidly securing an important market formerly controlled by foreign competitors. The effects of this activity would certainly be still more considerable if our industry had greater facilities for the transport of its goods.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fifteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the General Agents, on Monday, 19th October, at noon:-

The General Agents and Consulting Committee have pleasure in laying before the shareholder the final accounts for the year, and an estimate of the present year's underwriting to the 30th ultimo.

1895 Account.—The balance at credit of this

account is \$473,740, out of which the sum of \$268,724.42 has already been paid for a dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders, and a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors of premia. Subject to the approval of shareholders, it has been decided to dispose of the remaining balance of \$205,015.58 by adding to reserve fund \$100,000, thereby increasing it to \$1,300,000, paying a final dividend of \$6 per share, and carrying forward the sum of \$45,015.58 to 1896 account.

1896 Account.—This account shows an estimated balance at credit of \$507,700.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Maitland was appointed to the seat vacated by Mr. Bird's departure from the colony. This appointment now requires the confirmation of the shareholders. The other Members—Messrs. Chater, Dalrymple, Gillies, and Sassoon—retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and A. Coxon, whose re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents,
Canton Insurance Office, Limited.
Hongkong, 5th October, 1896.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,500,000.00		
Amount paid-up		500,000.00	
Reserve fund		1,200,000.00	
Outstanding dividends		2,396.00	
Outstanding bonus		2,634.66	
Balance of 1895 working account	\$473,740.00		
Less dividend of 10 per cent. paid to shareholders, and bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors of premia	268,724.42		
		205,015.58	
		\$1,910,046.24	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		27,292.00	
Fixed deposits:-			
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		175,000.00	
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China		75,000.00	
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited		7,000.00	
National Bank of China, Limited		25,000.00	
Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited		50,000.00	
Mortgage		1,063,342.46	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures		94,000.00	
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Limited, debentures		68,864.57	
Indian Government stock (¾ per cent. loan, 1865)		113,162.44	
Indian Government stock (¾ per cent. loan, 1842-43)		43,767.11	
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886		68,784.44	
Interest accrued but not yet payable		30,833.22	
		\$1,910,046.24	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1895.		\$	c.
To amount brought forward from last account		43,761.68	
To net premia received, less returns and reinsurances		1,414,610.52	
To interest		118,437.59	
To exchange		246.39	
To transfer fees		82.00	
		\$1,577,138.18	
By losses and claims paid		908,697.89	
By charges, including directors', auditors', and survey fees, agents' expenses, &c.		79,715.59	
By commissions		114,984.70	
By balance as above		473,740.00	
		\$1,577,138.18	

ESTIMATE OF WORKING ACCOUNT TO THE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Dr.		\$	c.
To premia, less reinsurances		907,000.00	
To interest received and accrued		88,000.00	
To exchange		150.00	
To transfer fees		50.00	
		\$995,200.00	

Cr.		\$	c.
By losses paid and outstanding		351,500.00	
By charges paid and accrued		57,000.00	
By commissions paid and accrued		79,000.00	
By balance		507,700.00	
		\$995,200.00	

HOMEWARD FREIGHTS.

A correspondent writes to the *N. C. Daily News* as follows:-

Last year I called your attention to the fact that lying off the bund at Hankow were two steamers belonging to the same company, one loading teas for London at 70s. per ton, the other teas for Odessa at 40s.

History repeats itself; steamers are now loading here for New York at 30s. while the rate to London is 40s., and the London steamers fill up at Colombo with tea at 6s. 3d. Owing to excessive taxation the tea trade from China to London has practically been killed, and it would be satisfactory if steamer agents would explain why they have imposed this additional burthen.

The inevitable result must be to prevent London from being as she has been hitherto the distributing centre. Until this season many shippers sent their teas "optional," that is, they could be landed in London or forwarded to New York as the markets permitted. Now it is cheaper to ship to New York and thence to London than to London direct, yet steamer agents profess to wonder why their London steamers do not fill.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE FOOCHOW ARSENAL.

When the late Marquis Tso Tsung-tang founded the Foochow arsenal, naval shipyard, and schools in the early part of the sixties, shortly after the subjugation of the Taiping rebels, and Messrs. Giquel and D'Aiguebelle (ex-officers of the Ever-Victorious Army) were installed as Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the new institution, with a corps of from thirty to forty French engineers, shipwrights, and artisans, many were the expectations, at the time, that this would be but the forerunner of China's greatness as a Naval Power in the future, and that the ships of war built at the yard would equal the best of those turned out in Europe. Chinese mandarins were not then so intimately known to foreigners as they are now, and as usual, while Europe has been making gigantic strides in naval architecture and gun-making, the Foochow arsenal at Pagoda Anchorage is still turning out vessels of the type of thirty years ago with old-fashioned engines of 750 horse-power; in fact, the same sort of work as the Chinese artisans were taught by their French instructors in the latter part of the sixties. Of course there have been attempts at building steel cruisers after the fashion of modern times, but it was found that they cost just double those built in Europe, while infinitely inferior. So the sphere of the establishment was gradually curtailed until from the rank of an institution of the first class with an Imperial High Commissioner at the head of it it had dropped down to the position of having a man of Taotai rank as Director. The result of the war with Japan has, however, opened the eyes of the Emperor's advisers and an edict was recently issued commanding that the Foochow arsenal be restored to its pristine importance, and appointing H.E. Yu Lu, formerly Tartar General of Lower Manchuria during the late war, but now Tartar General of Foochow, to be Imperial Commissioner and reorganiser of the institution. It was even acknowledged in the decree in question that in Europe the naval engineers and gun-makers are almost daily making improvements on their last inventions so as to bring their ships of war and armaments nearer and nearer perfection; hence it behoves China to follow in the same line of action and the said Tartar General is commanded to avoid no expense in the attempt to do so, etc. With this end in view, therefore, according to a native correspondent in Foochow, H.E. Yu Lu left Foochow city on the 11th ult. for Pagoda Anchorage, where, accompanied by the Commander of a French gunboat, a careful inspection was made of the arsenal, ship-building yard, gun foundry and naval engineering, and scientific schools attached to that institution. The object was to get the French officer to give his advice as to what should be done in the proposed work of reorganisation so as to make the institution comparable with those of Europe in the future.

As a result of this inspection the Tartar General has decided to engage another corps of French naval shipwrights, mechanics, and artisans, etc., as was done thirty years ago, with three superintendents at their head drawing monthly salaries of \$1,500 each. In addition to the above, seven professors or tutors with salaries at \$320 per mensem, are also to be engaged for the naval, engineering, and scientific schools—the first two schools to be taught by Englishmen. The salaries alone will amount to about \$100,000 per annum. This has been telegraphed to Peking by the Tartar General for sanction. The French Commander is also alleged to have said to the Tartar-General during the inspection that "all Europe was anxious to see China a powerful State and prosperous country and that if she would only bend herself earnestly to the task in hand of reorganisation he was sure that in the space of five years China would be able to stand on terms of equality with any Power in Europe." When this speech became known amongst the Foochowites, remarks our correspondent, "the hearts of all who heard it were filled with a joyful enthusiasm and every one earnestly hoped that the Imperial Government would take heed to this wholesome advice." On the 14th and 15th inst. H.E. presided over the nautical examinations at the naval school, when eighteen cadets were reported to have graduated from their theoretical course and were now ready to enter the training ship for their lessons in practical navigation. The examinations over, the Tartar General and his French adviser made an inspection of the Changmen or White forts guarding the Min-nan Pass. These were the forts which were shelled by the latter's compatriots under the late Admiral Courbet in August, 1884. It will be remembered that immediately after the signing of the peace with Japan in May last year an edict was issued authorising Chinese merchants and capitalists to buy over the Foochow arsenal and work it like the English shipbuilding yards and foundries. But this has fallen through, owing to the fear of the mandarins that "such a thing would tempt the people to rebel, who having the means to arm themselves could easily have the Government at their mercy." The Mahomedan rebellion and the numerous petty insurrections throughout the Empire, during and after the late war, have probably not lessened the fear expressed above.—*N. C. Daily News.*

SAD FATALITY AT YOKOHAMA.

Yokohama, 26th September.
A deplorable accident attended by sad loss of life occurred in Yokohama about 5.45 o'clock on Friday evening. A new iron bridge is being built across the creek connecting Horikawa-machi with Yoshihama-cho; and for the accommodation of foot passengers and jinrikisha while the bridge is building a temporary structure has been thrown over the water a little to the north of it. On Friday evening a new junk was being yuload up the creek with all the ceremonies usual to the occasion, and a number of people naturally gathered to see the fun, principally tea-firing women, with babies on their backs, who were just then knocking off work for the day. To obtain a better view of the diversions of the junk-men, the crowd collected on the temporary Yoshihama bridge, and more particularly in the centre of the structure. The bridge, never intended to carry such a weight, stood the strain for a few minutes, and then, almost without warning, collapsed. Over fifty persons were precipitated into the water; among them Mr. Vladimir Blad, who happened to be crossing in his jinrikisha. Mr. Blad escaped with a ducking, and the police who appeared promptly upon the scene, managed to rescue 48 women and children alive. But some score persons were carried down by the stream and sank. Dragging operations were at once started, and by this morning nine bodies had been recovered. The scene on the banks of the creek in the near vicinity of the accident presented a strange spectacle last night. Huge fires were lighted on the roadway, several electric lights were rigged up to assist the searchers, while hundreds of people bearing chochin (Japanese lanterns) wandered up and down,

some in idle curiosity, others searching for missing relatives or friends. In a very short space of time sweet-meat and tofu sellers took their stalls to the spot, and towards midnight quite a little fair was in progress. The bodies thus far recovered are those of women.—*Japan Mail.*

THE CHEFOO FORESHORE QUESTION.

Sir Robert Hart, on behalf of the Tsungli Yamèn, has fully admitted Messrs. Fergusson & Co.'s right to the foreshore at Chefoo appropriated by the Chinese and sold to a Russian firm, thus fully acknowledging the justice of Sir Claude MacDonald's demand for compensation. Sir Robert has offered Messrs. Fergusson & Co. Tls. 1,000 per mow, with fifteen per cent. compensation for disturbance, and as the latter consider this an inadequate price, it has been agreed to refer the question of the amount to be paid to the decision of two arbitrators, Mr. George Jamieson, British Consul, for the British claimants, and M. L. Rocher, Commissioner of Customs, for the Chinese. This is a very satisfactory solution, and we congratulate all those who have been instrumental in arriving at it. It completely confirms the view we have always taken as to the right of the riparian owner to all accretions; it settles a question which really threatened at one time to become serious; and it gives a welcome indication that the Tsungli Yamèn still realises the value of Sir Robert Hart's advice, and is still willing to make use of his common-sense and practical impartiality. Under the circumstances it is, we can conceive, fortunate that the Commissioner of Customs for the time being should happen to be a French citizen, while being an official in whom all nationalities have implicit confidence is one to be thoroughly commended; and great praise for it is due to the British Minister and the Consul-General and Consul at Shanghai, the China Association, and the Inspector-General of Customs.—*N. C. Daily News.*

TORNADO AT TIENTSIN.

On Monday evening, the 14th of September between six and seven, the Tientsin Settlement was visited by a tornado of considerable violence. A wall of cloud to the west was visible during the afternoon, with the glass falling rapidly. The clouds rose towards six o'clock in concentric layers alternately silver gray and dark slate colour. The storm broke with a violent wind and clouds of dust, stripping off leaves and branches from the trees. The forked lightning was very vivid, followed afterwards by a heavy fall of rain and hail.

Considerable damage was done, a part of the wall of the Club Concordia, now in course of construction in the Victoria Road, was blown in, taking with it several window frames and some twenty-five by twelve feet of brickwork. The open railing on the west side of the United States Consulate was blown down for some thirty feet, some of the brick piers being twisted round like corkscrews. The corrugated iron roof over a room at the Belgium Consulate was lifted like the lid of a box. The same thing occurred at Mr. Tenney's house on the Race Course Road. The tower-roof of Messrs. Blow & Co. was carried into the compound of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., breaking down a ricksha-house and damaging the ricksha; we understand the roof has since been returned! The chimney of Mr. E. B. Lee's wool press was bent and the roof ridging torn off a portion of the godown. Match-sheds were flying about in all directions: that of the Taotai Wang Fa-nung was thrown into the middle of the Victoria Park, breaking down three trees. The match-shed of Messrs. Mandl & Co. was deposited in the Meadows Road, nearly blocking up the full width. In the native quarters many houses were unroofed and blown down. A flag-staff in the Taotai's yamen was broken in three pieces. A native boat was upset in the river and twenty persons drowned. Two natives were struck by lightning and killed. The storm was the severest experienced in Tientsin for many years.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

MACAO.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

1st October.
The birthday of the King of Portugal was celebrated in a very dull and quiet way here, and not at all in the manner of former years. There was no official reception by the Acting Governor in honour of the occasion, the Monte Fort did not salute, nor did the troops of the Garrison fire the usual *feu de joie* after the church service. The demonstrations were thus shorn of their usual importance. This was on account of the illness of the wife of the Colonial Secretary and her husband being desirous that she should not be disturbed by the noise of firing. His orders in the matter have been very adversely criticised, and it is generally considered that he simply made an occasion to exhibit his own importance. On Sunday last the Band did not play in the Public Gardens, for the same reason, and the public was thus deprived of its usual entertainment. This is the more remarkable inasmuch as a noisy demonstration was permitted in the family house of a wealthy Chinaman, close under the windows of the Colonial Secretary's rooms, and at 12.50 a.m.

The British gunboat *Rattler* came over from Hongkong for the King's Birthday. She anchored six or eight miles away from the shore.

The other day the owner of the well known gardens at Chinsan gave a very good lesson to a picnic party that went there to enjoy themselves. The party took with them a Chinaman whose usual occupation is that of a fruit hawker, but on this occasion he changed his occupation to that of a gambler and took with him his *colu-colu* table (three dice game). After a short rest on arrival the Chinaman was anxious to begin the day's work for which he had been invited by the picnic party. The gambling began, but as soon as the owner of the garden heard the noise of the dice he sent word to say that he could not allow any gambling upon his property and requested that it might be stopped. And who did the party consist of? It included some of the principal authorities of Macao. Strange that persons in such a position should not know better how to preserve their personal dignity and that of their offices than to take a Chinese professional gambler with them on a picnic to private gardens kindly thrown open to the public. The Chinaman now boasts that he took with him \$400 as his capital and he expresses regret that the owner of the garden would not allow the game to proceed.

From the published accounts of the Portuguese colonies it appears that only two, namely, the Island of S. Thomé e Principe and Macao, have a balance in their favour, the others having a total deficit amongst them of over a million dollars. It is very regrettable to see how things are going. All these colonies have fertile soils adapted for planting, and there are also minerals to be exploited, but everything is wasted by carelessness. There is no real attempt made to colonise the possessions nor to induce the natives to work. There are men in Portugal who would be willing to devote themselves to enterprise in the colonies, but they require some encouragement, whereas it has always been the case when a new enterprise started that the Government has imposed heavy taxation upon it and destroyed all hopes of success. But it is better late than never, and even now by proper measures the Portuguese colonies might be made flourishing and prosperous. We have now a good Minister, but he should send out well selected officials to carry out his policy, not men who think only of gambling and enjoying themselves.

It is reported that the gunboat *Bengo* left Timor for Hongkong on the 18th September. From this it is to be inferred that the Governor of Timor is tired of constant war and that he is now going to devote himself to the construction of the palace, forts, and iron wharves. He always finds means of spending Macao's money. The subscription to provide funds to provide for a grand reception of H.E. Senhor Horta e Costa now amounts to more than sufficient for the purpose, and a division of opinion has arisen as to the disposal of the surplus. The Club Committee say it should be used for the benefit of the Club, whereas the subscribers say

they did not subscribe for the benefit of that institution. The shareholders are bound to provide for the repairs of the club and the public has nothing to do with it. If it is actually the case that there is more than enough money I do not see why, while the upper circles are enjoying themselves at the ball, the poor should not also be allowed to share in some way in the enjoyments of the day. This would do away with all division of opinion, because all who have subscribed would be glad to think that part was being used in charity.

3rd October.

On Friday morning when the turnkey opened the Monte Fort prison, four prisoners who were confined there awaiting deportation to Africa, tried to make their escape. The turnkey caught one and a soldier another before they had time to jump from the wall of the fort. The other two, however, jumped down. A soldier jumped after them and with his sword he gave one of them a severe cut and captured him, but the other one made his escape and has not yet been recaptured.

A little over two months ago seven men tried to make their escape from this gaol, of whom three succeeded. This ought to have put the authorities on their guard to take precautions against any more escapes. If things are to go on in this way it would be better to put all the prisoners in the public gaol and keep none in the Monte Fort prison, because the former is safer.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

There are more than two thousand robbers quartering in Fa-un district. The name of the leader is Cheung Wan, and he is about thirty years of age. They set forth in large bands to commit robberies of every sort and sometimes thirty or forty houses have been robbed at a time. Some time ago about forty soldiers were despatched thither from Canton, but when they arrived the leader of the robbers told them to go back, for he said that their force was insufficient to cope with the band. The soldiers were thus compelled to return to Canton. The local sub-Magistrate, who has received many complaints from the people, ordered the local Sansz to effect the capture of the leader, and they were further told that if they failed to do this they would be punished. The Sansz, being unable to arrest the leader, were obliged to bring his elder brother to the sub-Magistrate, who at once sent him to the local Magistrate. Several days ago Cheung Wan went himself with five robbers to see the sub-Magistrate in his yamen and said "I am Cheung Wan. If you want to arrest me, you can arrest me now. You are a coward. If you are unable to arrest me, why should you arrest my elder brother, who is a peaceful man. If you will not release my brother, I will come to destroy your yamen and kill you and all your belongings." The sub-Magistrate, who was almost frightened to death, was unable to utter a word. It is said that the sub-Magistrate has written to the Magistrate to that effect and that the captive has been released.

A fire broke out in a leather box shop named Tam Yuen, in Chong-yuen-fong, inside the city, on the 27th ultimo, at 7 p.m. The fire was not got under control until 11 p.m. Forty houses were destroyed.

On the 15th ultimo a fire occurred in a carpenter's shop in Yau Ying Street, in Kweilin, the capital of Kwangsi. About thirty houses were burnt to the ground, five lives were lost, and two persons were injured.

A large quantity of copper coins weighing seven candareens, which were ordered by the Viceroy of Nanking for the currency of that province, have already been made, and they will soon be sent to their destination.

During the typhoon of 29th July, great damage was done to the houses and property in Kichow district and a good many people were rendered homeless. Two thousand five hundred taels were sent from Canton to the said district a few days ago for distribution amongst the sufferers.

The Magistrate of Namhoi has issued a notice by order of the Viceroy and the Tartar General to the effect that as the Banner people, who were at first sent here for the defence of

the place, were often reported committing serious crimes, soldiers and policemen have been empowered to go to their quarters to arrest any of them when necessary.

HONGKONG.

A gale was experienced on Monday and Tuesday and rain fell in torrents at intervals. Fortunately practically no damage was done. On Friday the Jockey Club held an important extraordinary general meeting, at which it was decided to expunge certain words from the rules which were objectionable to the naval and military people. The annual meeting of the Club was afterwards held.

H.M.S. *Redpole* arrived from Manila on the 5th October.

There were 2,332 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 174 were Europeans.

The Ordinance to provide for the issue of warrants in the case of suspected coinage offences has been approved by Her Majesty.

The Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral, is booked to leave Vancouver by the C. P. steamer *Empress of India* on the 12th October.

On Saturday Hon. Commander Hastings committed Lam Hung for trial on a charge of causing the death of a foki in a shop in Queen's Road East.

Dr. F. W. Clark, of the Civil Service, has been appointed a director of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, vice Mr. A. K. Travers, resigned.

H.M.S. *Swift* has cracked the high pressure shaft of her starboard engine. She is to repair at Nagasaki, where she arrived on the 25th September from Korniloff Bay.

A proclamation by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of North Borneo, providing for the extradition of fugitive criminals from Hongkong, is published in Saturday's *Gazette*.

The Government has received the following telegram from the British Minister at Tokyo:—"Medical inspection at Japanese ports discontinued on arrivals from Hongkong and China ports."

Chan Tsung Sham, assistant Secretary to the Man On Insurance Company, was on Saturday bound over in the sum of \$50 to be of good behaviour for six months. He assaulted a lukong in Pottinger Street and created a disturbance.

At the Police Court on Saturday the master and the accountant of a shop at 12, Cheung Shan Street West, were charged with having counterfeited coins in their possession. Detective Sergeant Holt made a seizure in the shop of 36 base coins. The Magistrate ordered each defendant to pay a fine of \$50 and \$5 for each coin.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following cable from the mine giving the result of the September clean up:—"The mill ran 28 days crushing 1,150 tons of ore yielding 570 ozs. of smelted gold. Fifty tons of concentrates calcined yielded 80 ozs. of smelted gold."

A thief made a fatal leap on Thursday. He came out of a house in Jubilee Street with some stolen property and on catching sight of a watchman he ran back and went upstairs. In endeavouring to jump from a window on the first storey to a window in a house opposite, he fell short of the mark and was killed on the pavement below.

Joseph Kieber, the man charged with the manslaughter of Arthur Connor, of the steamship *Radley*, was brought before the Magistrate again on the 30th September. Mr. H. L. Dennys for the defence submitted that defendant did not strike the deceased with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm. His Worship eventually decided to reduce the charge to one of serious assault, and sentenced defendant to three months' hard labour.

There was a small fire at a barber's shop at 250, Queen's Road West, on Monday night. A bed curtain and clothing were burnt, the damage being only \$4. The fire was caused by the deep interest a member of the family took in an exciting hunt for small intruding occupants of his bed, he being so engrossed in the chase that he did not notice the close proximity of the bed curtain to the lighted lamp he was carrying to assist him in the search. The number of deaths is not recorded.

The coxswain of the P. & O. launch *Lily* was fined \$4 on the 29th September for unnecessarily blowing his whistle in the harbour. He pleaded that he wanted to wake up a coolie to take some tiffin baskets ashore.

Police Constable James Lawrie died in the Government Civil Hospital at 6.30 a.m. on the 4th October from fever, with which he had been attacked two or three days previously. The deceased was the tallest and broadest man in the force. He came out about five years ago. The funeral took place on the afternoon of the 5th at the Happy Valley. The procession was formed by the whole of the European force off duty and several private residents also attended.

At the Police Court on the 5th October, before Hon. Commander Hastings, three men were charged with slaughtering a cow outside a slaughter-house at Yau-mat. One of the men was the master and it was proved that the cow and the implements used were his, and that the other two men were his employees. He was not there, however, himself and the Magistrate regretted that owing to a legal technicality he could not inflict the full penalty on the master. However, to show how he believed in the man's innocence he would bind him over in the sum of \$100. The other two men were fined \$100 each.

An important arrest was made on Friday. For some time past Messrs. Ullmann Co. jewellers, Queen's Road Central, have been robbed in rather a mysterious manner of a large quantity of jewellery, &c. It was not until Friday that the thieves were discovered. Mr. M. Bernheim the manager, saw one of the shop coolies steal a number of watch springs and the thief was at once given into custody. Detective Sergeants Holt and McIver made enquiries and found pawn tickets relating to stolen property and implicating two other shop coolies who have decamped. On Saturday the thief who was caught red-handed was sent to gaol for six months.

Says the *Singapore Free Press*:—"The Rev. G. M. Reith, our genial 'Padre in Partibus,' has now arrived in Scotland safe, sound, and single. He writes:—"Was in Edinburgh the other day and met Col. D. G. Anderson, who is going strong as usual, and expressed his joy in his usual boisterous manner." Many in Singapore, and Hongkong for that matter, will be pleased to hear tidings of jovial "Jock" Anderson, who began and ended his service with the Old Steelbacks of the 58th. From the Padre's guarded phrase we fancy that all Princes Street must have stood still to witness the greeting of the two big Scots, and to hear the old Colonel's grand flow of welcome, studded every fifteen seconds by the famous "D'ye understaun'?"

The Volunteer Camp of Instruction will start at Stonecutter's Island at 6.30 a.m. next Saturday. Any member can join the camp from 5 p.m. on Friday, but he must give notice at head quarters. The camp promises to be one of the most successful yet formed and there will doubtless be a very strong muster at each drill. A new and interesting feature will be the publication of two numbers of a paper to be called *The Camp Gazette*, and we understand that every endeavour is being made to ensure the complete success of the journal. We may also mention for the benefit of the general public, who are cordially invited to attend, that the Principal Medical Officer has kindly consented to give a lecture at headquarters to-morrow night, on "The medical arrangements of a British Army in War."

On the 28th September the members of the Club Lusitano celebrated the birthday of the King of Portugal by a dinner, which was presided over by Mr. Romano. Fifty-three members sat down to an excellent menu, which was very creditable to the caterer in charge. Among the guests present we noticed the Consul-General for Peru, who occupied a seat to the right of the president, and the Consul for Spain, Mr. José de Navarro, who was accompanied by the Vice-Consul. After doing full justice to the viands provided, all those present rose and in a short speech Mr. Romano proposed the health of the King, which was enthusiastically honoured. This toast was followed by several others, and the dinner concluded at half-past ten. The facade of the Club was gaily illuminated by gas and Japanese lanterns.

A cargo boat heavily laden with earth for the Praya Reclamation got stuck in the mud at Yaumati, and in order to lighten the boat seven coolies dumped a quantity of the earth into the water. Fortunately they were caught and on the 1st October the Magistrate fined each of them \$3.

Another satire on the "pure and clean hands of the community," as mentioned at the recent maiden sessions has to be reported. Since the remark was made the community has been in a decidedly impure and unclean state and tragedies have been frequent. The present tragedy is unromantic and of a common order. A ricksha builder named Old On Cheong has his premises at 68 and 70, Queen's Road East, and he has several men in his employ. One of them is Lam Hung, a ricksha builder, and on the 30th September he quarrelled with one of the foks and with one blow of the fist killed him. Lam Hung disappeared and Inspector Mann, on being informed of the occurrence, at once telephoned to the Central Station and also sent out detectives, accompanied by the shop foks, to look for the man, and at 3.30 a detective and a foki saw Lam Hung in Caine Road and arrested him. The accused has been committed for trial.

In reference to the recent assault on a Hongkong shooting party, the following despatch has been addressed by the Consul at Canton to the Colonial Secretary:—

H.B.M. Consulate,
Canton, 26th September, 1896.

Sir,—In continuation of my despatch No. 107 of the 7th inst., I have the honour to inform you that I am in receipt of a despatch from the Viceroy enclosing the preliminary report of the Hsin-an Magistrate on Mr. Potts' case, and stating that he has sent renewed orders promptly to punish the ringleaders and to have the proclamation issued by H.E.'s orders in August last posted in all the Deep Bay district villages.

From the Magistrate's report, it appears that, in consequence of the Viceroy's very stringent instructions, police were at once sent to the Nin-kan village to find the coolie and to arrest the ringleaders.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. FRASER,
Acting Consul.

We have to acknowledge receipt of No. 5 of *The Rattle* and may say it is a rattling good one. The subject of "Celebrities of the Turf" is this time Mr. Sidney Reynell. Under the heading of "Cricket" we find several portraits that will amuse and interest the friends of the originals. The full page cartoon is "All round the Racecourse in September," and introduces the various sports going on, including "The Little Girls' Tennis Club." "Terrible Domestic Tragedy in Hongkong" is the sensational heading to the tale of how three kittens met their death in the typhoon, in which an ode by the local laureate is introduced. The account of the sad affair is duly illustrated and one of the portraits is not half a bad likeness, barring stature. (N.B. We do not refer to the portraits of the kittens.) "The Little Minister Again" is amusing—though not for the Minister probably. We have not exhausted the list of contents, but would refer our readers to the *Rattle* itself for the remainder.

We regret to have to announce the death of Fleet Paymaster Bremner, of H.M.S. *Centurion*, who arrived here on the 29th September from the North by the *Rainbow* invalided. On his arrival he was removed to the Naval Hospital, but very little hope was entertained of his recovery, and he died on the afternoon of the 30th. Mr. Bremner was very popular both in the Navy and on shore, and his death will be sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends. Some twenty years ago he held an appointment in the Naval Yard here. The funeral took place on Thursday at the Happy Valley, full naval honours being accorded the deceased. The procession, which started from the Naval Hospital, was an exceedingly long one and was composed of most of the naval and military officers in Hongkong and detachments from the men-of-war in the harbour and the various corps in garrison. A large number of private residents also attended. The funeral march was played by the band of the Rifle Brigade, and after the body had been lowered into the grave a salute was given.

The coxswain of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, & Co.'s launch, the *Tweed*, has been arrested on a charge of unlawfully causing the death of Su Cho I, a married woman, 23 years of age. The launch was entering the harbour from Lyemooon Pass at 7.15 on Sunday night when she ran into a sampan. The sampan was upset and three women were thrown into the water. Two were rescued by P.C. Whybrow (63), who put off in a small boat from Shauiwan; the third woman was also rescued, and all three were put on board the launch, which was ordered to go at full speed to the Harbour Master's wharf. On the way there Su Cho I died and the coxswain was thereupon arrested. The other two women were taken to the hospital. The coxswain was brought up at the Police Court on the 5th October and remanded.

The typhoon gun was fired at 7.20 a.m. on Monday and the sampans and cargo boats at once made for places of safety. Most of the steamers in port also thought it advisable to seek shelter behind Stonecutters or in Kowloon Bay. The weather was threatening during the day and a little sea got up in the harbour, and about five o'clock in the afternoon the Kowloon ferry launches stopped running. About 4 a.m. on Tuesday the wind was blowing in rather strong gusts, accompanied by heavy rain squalls. This weather continued throughout Tuesday until about 6 p.m., but the gusts of wind never reached full typhoon force, the maximum being 9. During the afternoon the wind worked round to the south-east and about 7 p.m. died away. A considerable sea was running in the harbour throughout the day and business afloat was almost entirely suspended. The C.P. steamer *Empress of China* arrived early in the morning and anchored in Kowloon Bay, her mails being brought over by the stevedore's launch. Most of her passengers remained on board until the evening. She had, we hear, a very fine passage until within a few hours of Hongkong. The only casualty we have heard of was the breaking up of a dust boat near Old Pedder's Wharf. The typhoon passed about a hundred miles to the south of the colony.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The U.S. Consul at Foochow, Mr. J. Courtney Hixson, has gone home on furlough. During his temporary absence Mr. William C. Hixson takes charge of the Consulate as Acting Consul.

The Viceroy stopped and looked around at the reporters. "Are you the best representatives of your papers?" he asked. "Because you are very poor representatives of your papers." This occurred at a press interview granted by H.E. Li Hung-chang at New York. The Viceroy can be frank—at times.

At the recent trial of three men for coining silver dollars near Yangchow, the curious defence was raised that "the counterfeit dollars were not made with the object of being passed off as good money, but for certain shops to put into their safes in order to deceive bandits who came to plunder them!"—*N. C. Daily News*.

While on her way from Hakodate to Yokohama, on the 9th September, we learn from a Japan contemporary, H.M. storeship *Humber* collided with the *Kumagawa-maru*, the quarantine vessel at Nagahama. The Japanese steamer had her bows damaged, and it is reported that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have demanded compensation.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 24th September says:—On Tuesday morning the American ship *Luzon*, from New York with a cargo of kerosine oil, consigned to the Standard Oil Co., stranded on the Woosung bar. The ship at the time was drawing 19 feet 9 in. and the water signalled at the signal station was 20 feet 4 in., but while crossing the bar she took a sheer and stranded, taking the ground on a ridge of hard sand right amidships. All efforts to float her on that tide failed and she remained until yesterday morning. As the tide fell the vessel remained suspended on the ridge, with the consequence that she became seriously hogged and it was feared that her back was broken. She was floated off at high water yesterday and towed up to Shanghai. The steamer *Guernsey*, which was following the *Luzon* across the bar, was run on shore to avoid collision and remained there until yesterday.

In noting the arrival at Tientsin of the British steamer *Strathgairn*, 4,070 tons, on the 23rd September, from Barrow-in-Furness, with 6,000 tons of rails and railway material, the *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—The vessel called at Labuan for the purpose of coaling; it is interesting to note how rapidly that port is gaining favour as a coaling station.

Mr. Huang, the Shanghai Magistrate, accompanied by several of the gentry of the native city, went over to Pootung on the 27th September to survey the foreshore accretions there. This is owing to a report that large numbers of landowners in Pootung while enjoying all the advantages of extended area have been paying taxes only according to original measurement.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Nagasaki Express* says:—The rice crops this year are estimated to be some 80 to 90 per cent. below the usual yield, on account of the havoc worked by the floods and storms in the north. In this island, however, the yield is very far above the average; in fact, it is said to be nearly double what it has ever been before. In Kumamoto the amount raised is said to be 1,500,000 *koku*, whereas 950,000 *koku* is the average amount produced in the district.

According to a Shanghai native paper, a Chinese named Shen has gone into partnership with a German merchant with the object of opening a manufactory for the making of tin foil with foreign machinery. The foil is for the paper sycee which devout Buddhists burn. It has been calculated that the Buddhists and Taoists of the three prefectures of Sungkiang, Soochow, and Chinkiang in Kiangsu expend nearly a million and a half dollars yearly in burning silver joss-paper.

The steamer *Oak Branch*, now in Yokohama harbour with a cargo of case oil, is one of a type of vessel which is apparently destined to come into wide use in the future. She is of the whale-back kind, but unlike that class she has a properly formed bow with a straight stem, her after part being also like that of an ordinary steamer. For this design it is claimed that cargo can be loaded and discharged far more promptly than in the case of ordinary vessels, and there is no rolling in a sea-way.—*Japan Advertiser*.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 26th September says:—The exertions of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co. during the past three weeks to scour the river by means of centrifugal pumps have been partially crowned with success, and on the 21st inst. two lighters were able to reach the Bund. Since that date three or four have arrived every day, but their draught does not exceed 5 feet. When the breach is closed the river will doubtless improve very quickly, and it now seems within measurable distance of our having steamers at the Bund.

The British Consul at Amoy has issued an express warning masters, officers, and crews of vessels visiting Amoy that thefts are very prevalent at that port. The *Amoy Gazette* says:—This lamentable state of affairs is hardly astonishing, when we remember that there is no Harbour Police here; that thieves, when arrested and sent in to the authorities, are either let off altogether or are only lightly punished; that there is no check on the pawnshops, which are allowed to advance money on things manifestly stolen, and that some of these shops are not only receivers of stolen goods, but instigators of theft. Lastly, there is no control or supervision exercised over opium dens and brothels, which form meeting places for thieves, where they can devise thefts without interruption.

The *Shenpao* reports that on the 26th Sept. a foreigner accompanied by his hunting dog went on a pleasure trip over to Pootung in the vicinity of the Oil Tanks and getting to the Tang bridge was unaccountably attacked by a party of roughs who abound in that locality. The foreigner was pretty badly handled, but managed to escape with the loss of his hat, several odds and ends, and his dog, which was cruelly killed. The Taoist upon being informed of the outrage at once ordered the Shanghai Magistrate to investigate the case, and on the next day the tipao of the ward was arrested by that official and granted a certain limit of time to produce the guilty roughs for trial and punishment. As outrages of a similar nature have been frequent in this district it is to be hoped that the local mandarins will make an example of the rowdies.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Committee appointed at the recent meeting of householders at Kobe have practically completed their arrangements for starting a laundry on a large scale under foreign supervision. A starting price is fixed, subject to reduction so soon as success justifies the change. A staff of twenty experienced washermen have been provisionally engaged, together with overseers; a seamstress is to be regularly employed; and particular care is to be taken in collecting and delivery from house to house. The whole is to be superintended by a responsible foreigner, and it is expected that the laundry will be ready to commence work about the middle of October.—*Hyogo News*.

The U.S. fish-survey vessel *Albatross*, Capt. J. F. Moser, has arrived at Yokohama. She has been carrying on investigations at the sealing grounds of the North Pacific Ocean into the effects of the seal-hunting of the last few years. It would appear that if the present pelagic operations of the numerous sealers who now sail from Yokohama and other places are not radically altered the seals of the North Pacific will soon be entirely exterminated. The *Albatross* is splendidly fitted up for the purposes of scientific exploration of the ways, homes, and natures of the denizens of the deep. Her collection of North Pacific zoophytes is especially noteworthy and complete.—*Japan Mail*.

The Chungking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date of 17th September:—We have news that at present no junks are venturing through to Ichang, as they are all afraid to descend the gorges below Kueifu in consequence of the reported total loss of three junks, ballasted with sugar, and carrying 30,000 taels worth of silk, together with opium and white wax, all reported lost among the rocks and rapids of the gorges below. These three junks were flagged by Butterfield and Swire's native hong here, and their cargo not insured. A French Father just arrived from Chengtu says on the Chengtu plain, across which there are only earth roads, our stone roads ceasing with the mountains, travellers are up to their thighs in mud. The rain here still continues, we are well into our third week of it; many people have received no mail for a fortnight and the telegraph wires are either broken or transmit unintelligible messages. Rice a few days ago had gone up 200 cash per *tou*, being then 1,240, and it is pitiful to see people trying to dig their sprouted grain.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 2nd October.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were under date 18th ultimo.

Black Tea.—Settlements reported are rather larger than for the previous fortnight, but there is no general demand and buying is in few hands.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow.	689	1-cht. at Tls. 13.25 to 19.50 a pcl.
Keemun...	291	" " 14.00 to 18.00 "
Wenchow.	166	" " 13.00 to 14.25 "
Oonam ...	2,620	" " 11.04 to 13.00 "
Oopack ...	80	" " 17.00 "

Total ... 3,816 1-chests.

Green Tea.—Pingsueys.—The business done in these descriptions during the fortnight has been on a more moderate scale, but without much change in quotations. Present prices are said to be paying Tls. 1 to Tls. 2 a picul to the Teamen which is sufficient inducement to bring forward the full estimated yield, say 140,000 to 150,000 half-chests.

Country Teas.—This market has been strong, and prices generally have advanced. "Choice" Teas are scarce and are run after at improving prices. The second chops generally, both of Teenkai and Moyune, are bringing higher rates than the first pack; this is unusual with Moyune Teas. The advance in fine to finest Teas from the lowest point of the market is Tls. 2 to Tls. 3 a picul. Common Teas are firm at fully a tael a picul advance. Teamen are working the shortage in supplies for all it is worth, and as long as we have so many buyers in the market they are likely to succeed in any combined action which at all jumps with the hopes of buyers. We avoid as much as possible referring to individual settlements, but the following illustrates the present position:—A well-known chop was sold in New York late in August last at 12.62 cents a lb. It

cost Tael 24 a picul in October, 1895. The same chop of similar proportions has lately been settled at Tael 28 a picul—19 cents net, and no buyer would say it is not ordinary market value. A few sales of new Teas have been received from New York which about cover cost. Native estimates of total yield are further reduced to 170,000 to 180,000 half-chests, against 240,000 half-chests last season. Hysons.—"Choice" qualities have been wanted, and although the highest quotation is Tls. 41, against Tls. 45 a picul for the previous fortnight, prices have been firmer and an advance of a tael a picul has been established. The rush to buy common to fair qualities has been unequalled in recent years, and coarse liquoring mixtures of Pingsuey and Fychow leaf have been taken readily at extravagant rates:—

Settlements reported since 4th instant:—

Pingsuey ...	9,449	1-cht. at Tls. 17.00 to 27.50 a pcl.
Moyune ...	11,321	" " 17.00 to 33.25 "
Tienkai ...	7,891	" " 19.50 to 30.00 "
Fychow ...	533	" " 15.75 to 17.25 "
Local P'ked	125	" shipped.

Total ... 29,322 1-chts.

Settlements from opening of the market to date:—

	Settlements.	Stock.
Pingsuey ...	9,941 1-chts.	20,545 1-chts.
Moyune ...	16,313 "	20,252 "
Tienkai ...	32,387 "	968 "
Fychow ...	11,898 "	
Local packed	7,026 "	

Total ... 167,565 1-chts. ... 41,765 1-chts.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	4,117,332	4,960,935
Shanghai and Hankow	15,205,250	15,872,867
Foochow	10,617,726	8,518,499
	29,940,808	29,352,301

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	8,300,303	17,314,564
Amoy	8,892,588	7,967,866
Foochow	1,131,222	1,608,212
	18,324,113	26,890,642

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,925,118	27,040,68

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	18,984,913	25,891,698
Kobe	9,292,675	14,740,562
	28,277,588	40,632,260

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 1st October.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's circular).—London messages to 30th ultimo quote Gold Kilins 8/4 and Blue Elephants 10/6; a slight advance on the first named, but the tone of the market is described as quiet. Raw Silk.—The early part of the week was very dull, but yesterday and to-day very good business has been doing, and considerable settlements are reported, prices at the close being a trifle higher. Tatsees.—Fully 1,500 bales have changed hands, mostly on a basis of Tls. 345 for Gold Kilin; this p.m. an advance of Tls. 21 has been paid. Hangchows.—A small business has been done at previous rates. Tayseams.—About 100 bales have been settled at full prices. Coarse Silks continue very scarce. Yellow Silks.—150/200 bales have found buyers at the prices given below, which in some instances show an advance. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns 24th to 30th September, 1,191 bales White, 199 piculs Yellow, and 116 piculs Wild Silks. Filatures and Reels.—Hand Filatures are in good demand, and some considerable quantities are now under offer, both in Lyons and New York. Settlements this week aggregate 200 bales; prices unchanged. The export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—To London 2 bales, Continent 696 bales, and America 187 bales. Wild Silks.—No fresh purchases have transpired; arrivals, which are

small, go to fill previous contract. Waste Silk.—Purchases of Tussah Waste have been made at Tls. 27.40 for 1 and 2-60 per cent.; 40 per cent.; beyond these there is hardly anything doing. Curlies are neglected.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	9,276	5,808
Shanghai	14,306	29,933
Yokohama	2,165	9,749
	25,747	45,490

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	547	3,044
Shanghai	383	4,372
Yokohama	810	9,683
	1,740	18,099

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—There is no change in the position of this market. Quotations for Formosa are \$48.50 to \$49.00. During the week sales have been 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Prices continue to decline and the market remains dull. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.22 to 7.23 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.52 to 6.54 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.50 to 4.53 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.33 to 4.36 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.10 to 7.13 "
do. " 2, White...	6.45 to 6.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.32 to 4.35 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.20 to 4.22 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.67 to 10.70 "
Shekloong	9.45 to 9.47 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The American ship *Josephus*, Hongkong to New York, 27th September, took:—20,923 rolls Matting, 846 packages Crackers, and 51 packages Rattancore.

The German str. *Kriemhild*, Hongkong to Odessa, 28th September, took:—250 cases Cassia Lignea; for Havre:—18 cases Bristles, 5 cases Feathers, 15 cases Paper, 1 case Bambooware, 70 rolls Matting, and 40 bales Canes; for Havre option Hamburg:—50 boxes Camphor, 84 bales Canes, 200 cases Cassia, 15 cases Bristles, 7 packages Human Hair, and 1 case Silks; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—67 cases Bristles, 10 cases Essential Oil, 299 cases Camphor, and 25 cases Gallnuts; for Hamburg:—2 cases Paper, 10 cases Staranseed Oil, 84 rolls Matting, 188 bales Feathers, 10 cases Bristles, 1 case China Ink, 383 bales Canes, 4 cases Earthenware, 1 case Silks, 39 cases Essential Oil, 72 cases Preserves, 20 cases Aniseed Oil, 40 packages Palmitates, 1,100 packages Tea, 150 bales Rattan Shavings, 12 packages Private Effects, 1,020 cases Cassia, 27 packages Sundries, and 4 packages Merchandise; for Ham-Burg option Antwerp:—50 cases Bristles; for Amsterdam:—5 cases Preserves and 20 cases Tea; for London:—10 cases Aniseed Oil, 15 cases Cassia Oil, and 11 cases Cigars; for Lisbon:—1 case Condiments.

The Hawaiian ship *Helen Brewer*, Hongkong to Baltimore, 29th September, took:—10,099 rolls Matting and 122 packages Sundries.

The steamer *Partroclus*, Hongkong to London 29th September, took:—2,913 bales Hemp, 93 cases Cigars, 14 cases Chinaware, 100 cases Palm leaf fans, 4,514 cases Ginger, 225 cases Ginger, 100 cases Soy, and 10 packages Sundries; for Glasgow:—3 cases Chinaware.

The British steamer *Ixion*, Hongkong to New York 29th September, took:—111 cases Essential Oil, 4 cases Chinaware, 20 cases Hair, 69 cases Preserves, 49 cases Crackers, 36 rolls Matting, 57 bales Feathers, 40 bales Rattancore, and 1,004 packages Sundries; for Boston:—6 cases Woodware.

The steamer *Sydney*, Hongkong to Milan 30th September, took:—40 bales Raw Silk; for France:—452 bales Raw Silk, 184 bales Waste Silk, 39

Hair, 20 bales Canes, 201 bales Matting, 10 cases Silk Piece Goods, 10 cases Essential Oil, 40 cases Bristles, 11 cases Bronze, 25 cases Chinaware, 4 cases Jade Stones.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Bengal.—The market has further improved. New Patna closing at \$787½, Old Patna at \$750, and New Benares at \$762½.

Malwa.—There has been an improvement in prices during the week under review. Rates close steady as under:—

New (this yr's) 730 with all'ance of 2 to 3½ cts.
 (last yr's) \$740 " 0 to 1½ "
 Old (2/3 yrs.) \$760 " 0 to 1½ "
 Old (4/5 yrs.) \$780 " 0 to 2½ "
 Older \$800 " 0 to 1½ "

Persian.—Some few sales have taken place during the past week, latest quotations being \$540 to \$580 for Oily, and \$530 to \$630 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are given as under:—

New Patna.....1760 chests.
 Old Patna 38 "
 New Benares 380 "
 Old Benares 17 "
 Malwa 480 "
 Persian 410 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 30.	735	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 1.	732½	750	760	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 2.	730	750	757½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 3.	735	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 4.	735	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 5.	737½	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 6.	737½	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800
Oct. 7.	737½	750	762½	—	730/740	760/800

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Small arrivals have had the effect of improving prices to the extent of 50 cents per picul, closing firm. Stocks: Bengal, 500 bales.

Bombay\$14.50 to 17.00 p. pl.
 Kurrachee 14.50 to 17.00 "
 Bengal, Rangoon, and } 16.00 to 17.25 "
 Dacca
 Shanghai and Japanese.. 18.00 to 22.00
 Tunchow and Ningpo.. 18.00 to 22.00
 Madras 15.00 to 17.50
 Sales: 600 piculs Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Supplies are now coming forward more freely, but prices have continued steady. Closing quotations are:—

per picul.
 Saigon, Ordinary\$2.37 to 2.40
 " Round, good quality 2.58 to 2.60
 " Long 2.75 to 2.77
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.45 to 2.48
 " Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.85 to 2.87
 " White 3.20 to 3.23
 " Fine Cargo 3.33 to 3.35

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—110 bales No. 1 at \$70.50 to \$72, 1,295 bales No. 10 at \$78.50 to \$80, 500 bales No. 12 at \$78 to \$83, 225 bales No. 16 at \$85.50 to \$93.50, 500 bales No. 20 at \$94 to \$97, 25 bales No. 42 at \$88.50. White Shirtings.—150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.90. Long Ells.—250 pieces 7 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.20. Camlets.—200 pieces Dark Blue E.K.K. at \$20.

METALS.—Lead.—3,192 piculs Australia at \$6.50 to \$6.80, 750 pigs Elthorven at \$6.75, 672 pigs L.B. at \$6.75. Yellow Metals.—30 cases 14/32 ozs. Vivian at \$26.25. Tin.—200 slabs Foongchai at \$33. Quicksilver.—1,050 flasks at \$108.50 to \$111.

COTTON YARN.

per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20\$69.00 to \$68.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24100.00 to 105.00
 " 22 to 24103.00 to 108.00
 " 28 to 32114.00 to 119.00
 " 38 to 42118.00 to 126.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.40 to 1.55
 7lbs. 1.75 to 1.95
 8.4 lbs. 2.00 to 3.00
 9 to 10 lbs. 3.20 to 4.00

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.15 to 2.35
 59 to 60 " 2.50 to 3.10
 64 to 66 " 3.00 to 3.50
 Fine 3.90 to 6.90
 Book-folds. 3.20 to 5.40
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.60 to 1.25
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Old y. 1.40 to 1.55
 7lbs. (32 ") " 1.80 to 2.95
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.60 to 1.75
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.15 to 2.40
 8 to 8½ lbs. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.05
 Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14lbs. 3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs. 1.20 to 3.50
 Brocades—Dyed 3.75 to 4.50 per yard
 Damasks 0.12 to 0.15
 Chintzes—Assorted 3.07 to 0.10
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.21 to 0.28
 Velvetens—18 in. 0.16 to 0.20 per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 0.85
 WOOLLENS

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 0.95 per yard
 German 1.00 to 1.15
 Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. 1.25 to 3.50 per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet 6.50 to 8.00
 Assorted 6.60 to 8.10
 Camlets—Assorted 18.00 to 27.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 10.00 to 18.00
 Orleans—Plain 3.00 to 3.60 per pair
 Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 4.80 to 8.40

METALS

per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 3.32½ to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar ... 3.32½ to —
 Swedish Bar — to —
 Small Round Rod — to —
 Hoop — to —
 Old Wire Rope — to —
 Lead, Australian 6.80 to —
 Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 29.00 to —
 Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 26.75 to —
 Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 26.50 to —
 Japan Copper, Slabs — to —
 Tin — to —

per box
 Tin-Plates 5.00 to —
 per cwt. case
 Steel 4.35 to —

SUNDRIES

per picul
 Quicksilver 110.00 to —
 per box.
 Window Glass 3.65 to —
 per 10-gal. case
 Kerosene Oil 2.05 to —

SHANGHAI, 1st October.—(From Messrs. No81, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—Each successive week appears to get duller than the preceding one, and the interval just closing can be said to be an easy first for the smallness of the business done and the meagreness of sales reported. There is considerable enquiry for most classes of goods, but the prices offered are so low that importers have no option but to refuse business. Here and there some small sales have been made on private terms for arrivals, but as the goods dealt in are of special make and a favourable rate of exchange has been secured by the buyers, the transactions cannot be termed as forming a market. At the moment there is little relief coming from the Outports, as with few exceptions their markets appear to be as dull as that here. Hankow is reported to be suffering from financial pressure and this, indirectly, is affecting the other River Ports. Nothing of importance is to hand from Chefoo, but advice from Tientsin are more encouraging, the natives affirming that the recent troubles among the dealers have now been settled and that business is likely to improve. From Korea the news is scarcely so satisfactory. It is said that internal troubles are again brewing and that natives are sending goods hence.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s report.)—2nd October.—No change has taken place in the situation since our last report. Importers seem to be generally of the opinion that very little if any improvement can be looked for before the Native new year in February next. Should the endeavour of the Chamber of Camurers to get the Lekin or inland tax removed, in exchange for a fair increase of specific duties, an almost incredible expansion of trade with this

country must take place. At present Lekin, in the extortioning hand of native officials, often doubles the cost of goods before they reach their destination in the interior. If this is abolished in exchange for a 10 per cent. duty, the consumption of foreign goods in the interior will increase at once and will grow steadily as time goes on.

JOINT STOCK SHARES

HONGKONG, October 7th.—The market has ruled steady during the week under review and a fair amount of business, generally at advanced rates, has been transacted. Buyers of most stocks have been more in evidence than sellers and the market closes strong.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been in better demand and several enquiries for forward deliveries have not been met. A few small lots, however, for December at 196 and 197 per cent. prem. have changed hands, as also a few small lots for January at 199 and February at 201 and 203. Cash sales have been effected in small lots at 192 and 193, buyers always ruling the market. At time of writing shares, on news of a fall on the London market to £42.10, are easier, and obtainable at 192 per cent. prem. Nationals still continue on offer at \$264 without finding buyers and small lots could probably be obtained at a point lower.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found further buyers at \$76 and Unions at \$250, both closing a little quieter with sellers. Cantons are on offer in small lots at \$195. The chief items in this Company's report just issued are the payment of a final dividend to shareholders of \$6 per share, a sum of \$100,000 carried to reserve making the fund \$1,300,000, and a sum of \$45,015.58 to 1896 account. Straits have found small buyers at quotation after sales at \$27½, and North Chinas and Yangtszes have changed hands in Shanghai in small lots at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continue neglected. Chinas have been enquired for, and small sales have taken place at \$96, \$96½, and \$97, closing with sellers at last rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled steady at \$33½, at which a fair number changed hands. A large line is reported at \$33, but the report requires confirmation. Indo-Chinas continue neglected and dull, with small sales at \$41. China Manilas have been on offer the whole week at \$70, but I have heard of no sales. Douglasses have continued inactive with little or no business except small reported sales at \$58. China Mutuals remain on offer at quotations without finding buyers, and lower rates would doubtless be accepted.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have again hardened and rates show a considerable improvement. Sales have been effected in fair lots from \$132 to \$140 cash, and at equivalent rates on time as far as March. Market closes with sellers at \$139. Luzons changed hands in the early part of the week at \$50 and \$51, but on the arrival of the Government troops from Spain and a better prospect of an early suppression of the insurrection, rates got firmer and at time of writing shares could be placed at \$53. Manila advices state that at the outbreak of the insurrection the greater part of the workmen left the works and that refining was suspended in consequence.

MINING.—Punjoms, after ruling quiet and weak, suddenly, on receipt of results of last month's crushing, jumped to \$12 with sales at that after a fair number had been placed at \$10½, \$11, and \$11½. Market closes with sales and sellers at \$12. The result of the September crushing is as follows, 570 oz. from 1,150 tons crushed, 80 oz. from 50 tons calcined. The result of the Cyanide clean-up for September is just to hand, and is as follows, 720 tons treated yielded 323 oz. gold of assay value £1 18s. making a total gain for the month of over 800 oz. This satisfactory news will in all probability send the rate higher than closing quotation given below. Preference shares have changed hands at \$3.40 and \$3.60. Raubs have been enquired for at \$5½, but with sales at \$5.75 and \$5.60 in Singapore none are forthcoming. Jelebus have found small buyers at quotation. Balmorals and Olivers continue dull and neglected.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue to im-

prove sales having been effected at from 202 to 218 per cent. prem. for cash; on time shares have been enquired for during the whole week at current equivalent rates, but very few sellers have been found willing to part. Kowloon Wharves have ruled rather irregular with sales at \$59, \$59½, and \$58½. Wanchais are enquired for at \$45½.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS—Hongkong Lands continue to rule steady with sales at \$75½ and \$76; at latter rate shares are, however, obtainable. Hotels have been on offer during the week at \$29 without finding buyers. West Point has improved to \$19 with sales and buyers and Humphreys Estates have found small buyers at \$9.

MISCELLANEOUS—With the exception of small sales of Electrics at \$6.90, Ropes at \$127½, Fenwicks at \$29½, and Ewos at \$80 I have nothing to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID-UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	192 ½, \$365, sellers
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26, sellers
Founders Shares	£1	\$100
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	nominal
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$139, sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$14, buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$29½, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$17½, sellers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6.90, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$96, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$29, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$105
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$127½, sal. & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	218 p. ct. prem.—
Insurance		\$397.50, sal. & b.
Canton	\$50	\$193, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$97, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$76, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$342½, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 192½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$27½, buyers
Union	\$25	\$250
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, sales & sellers
Land and Building		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$76, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18
West Point Building	\$40	\$19, sales & buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$53, sales & buyers
Mining		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	72½
Jebebu	\$5	\$3, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.90
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$3.50, sellers
Punjum	\$4	\$12, sales & sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$3.60, sales
Ranhs	13s. 10d.	\$5.60, buyers
Steamship Coys.		
China and Manila	\$50	\$70, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£5	£8, sellers
Do. Preference	£10	£7, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$33.25, sal. & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$41, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$45½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12.85, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 2nd October.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—The business this week has been small, attention being chiefly directed to China Sugar Refining shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Only one transaction is quoted, a cash sale at 192 per cent. premium. The Hongkong quotation is 190 per cent. premium with buyers. The London rate is 243. National Bank of China shares are quoted in Hongkong, at \$26½ nominal. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—Shares have been parted with at Tls. 30 to Tls. 30½ for cash, and Tls. 34 to Tls. 32 for delivery on the 31st March. There are cash sellers at these prices. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. changed hands at Tls. 189. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were sold at Tls. 176 ex the dividend of Tls. 14 paid yesterday. Hong-

kong and Whampoa Dock shares have been sold in Hongkong at 206 per cent. premium. A few shares in the Shanghai Dock Co. were placed at Tls. 31. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance shares have been sold at Tls. 190, and Yangtzes at \$155, and are offering. Straits were placed at \$28 for delivery on the 31st December. Fire Insurance.—There is no local business reported. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew wharf shares have been sold at Tls. 122½. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf shares have been in strong demand, and \$59½ have been paid for them in Hongkong. Mining.—Sheridan G. M. & M. shares have been placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 3.50. Raub A. C. M. shares have been placed 1 cally, and to Hongkong, at \$5.0. Tug and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug & Lighter shares were sold at T. Tls. 100. and Co-operative Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 190. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 42. China Sugar Refining shares have been dealt in at \$133 cash, \$133½ to \$138 for the 31st current, \$134½ to \$138 for 31st December and \$140 for 1st March. We quote \$135 as the closing cash rate. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are offering freely, with no buyers. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been placed at Tls. 81. Hongkong Land Investment shares have changed hands in Hongkong at \$75½. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton shares have been sold at Tls. 80 and Tls. 81, and are wanted, International Cotton shares at Tls. 95, Laon-kung-mow shares at Tls. 95, and Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 150. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 100, and Shanghai-Langkats at Tls. 40 cash cum the new issue, and at Tls. 550 for 30th April, on the same terms. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were placed at Tls. 93, and A. S. Watson & Co. shares at \$13. Hall & Holtz paid an interim dividend of \$2 on the 30th ultimo. We quote the shares \$35.50 ex div. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. —\$367.50.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$26.50.
National Bank of China, Ltd. Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 30½.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—£8.5.0.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—£3 1s. 6d.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. —\$33.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$65.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 189.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 176.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$375.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$81.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$25 2½.
Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$155.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$190.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$27½.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$335.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$96½.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 122½.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$59.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 3½.
Punjum Mining Co., Ltd.—\$12½.
Punjum Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$3½.
Jebebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5½.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 100.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 200½.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 190.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 42.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$135.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$55½.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid). —Tls. 81.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (Tls. 30 paid). —Tls. 58.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$75.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$13.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 244.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 81.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.
Laon-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 500.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 150.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 210.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 251.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 110.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 400.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 68.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$45.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$35½.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$8.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 7th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/11
Bank Bills, on demand	2/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/11
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.67
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.71½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.16
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	179½
Bank, on demand	179½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	179½
Bank, on demand	179½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.	
Ondemand	15 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.27
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per taal	48.00

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th October.—There is very little change to be noted in the position of our freight market during the last fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong there is no improvement to report, two fixtures only having been made at about 6 cents per picul. From Saigon to Singapore three settlements are published at 10 cents per picul. At Bangkok tonnage does not seem to be wanted and the regular lines are sending their steamers in ballast to Saigon for the poor rates above mentioned. From Java to this steamers are not wanted at present. From Newchwang to Canton five settlements are reported at 10 cents per picul. Requirements for this month's loading appear to be nearly satisfied and rates are not likely to advance much this season. Japan coal freights are as last reported. Tonnage might be placed Moji to Hongkong at \$1 and to Singapore at \$1.75. In sailing tonnage there is very little doing. The *Paramita* has been taken up hence to New York at a rate equal to about 12s. 6d. per ton, but there is not much demand for further tonnage. For San Francisco there is not much enquiry. There are seven vessels disengaged in port, registering 10,246 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Paramita—American ship, 1,498 tons, Hongkong to New York, gold \$8,600.
Ivy—American ship, 1,131 tons, Mantung to Singapore and back to Hongkong, Mex. \$9,550.
Shaftesbury—British steamer, 1,215 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1 per ton.
A C.N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents per picul.
Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents per picul.
Kueiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents per picul.
Nanchang—British steamer, 1,063 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents per picul.
An I.C.S.N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 16 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 6 cents per picul.
Keongwai—British steamer, 1,115 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$2,000.
Daphne—German steamer, 1,395 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 10 cents per picul.
Dante—German steamer, 1,302 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 10 cents per picul.
Wongkoi—British steamer, 1,115 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 10 cents per picul.
Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 16 cents per picul.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,344 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.
Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, \$4,000.
Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.20 per ton.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,344 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, 80 cents per ton.
Strathleven—British steamer, 1,588 tons, hence to Shanghai, kerosine oil, 9 cents per case.
Falkenberg—German steamer, 1,175 tons, Taiwan-foo to Shanghai; thence Newchwang to Amoy, \$4,800.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$3,900.
Daphne—German steamer, 1,395 tons, monthly, 2/1 months, \$4,700.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Java* (str.), *Ceylon* (str.), *Dardanus* (str.), *Telena* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Casablanca* (str.), *Doric* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Natal* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—*Altmore* (str.), *Olympia* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Charles E. Moody*, *Saint Mark*, *Asloum* (str.), *Kansow* (str.), *William J. Retch*, *William H. Conner* (str.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Malacca* (str.), *Yamashiro Maru* (str.), *Australian* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—ARRIVALS.

29, Nanchang, British str., from Tientsin.
 30, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
 30, Independent, Ger. str., from Newchwang.
 30, Yungching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 30, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 30, Pakshan, British str., from Singapore.
 30, Tailee, German str., from Hongay.
 30, Sadakan Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 30, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.

30, Congo, Spanish str., from Manila.

October—

1, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 1, Canton, British str., from Foochow.
 1, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 1, Tsinan, British str., from Kobe.
 1, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 1, Velocity, British bark, from Honolulu.
 1, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
 2, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
 2, Osborne, British str., from Bombay.
 2, Doris, German str., from Newchwang.
 2, Nord, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 2, Mirzapore, British str., from Bombay.
 2, Independent, German str., from Canton.
 3, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
 3, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 3, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 3, Cosmopolit, German str., from Foochow.
 3, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 3, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Chusan, German str., from Iloilo.
 3, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 4, Ingraban, German str., from Singapore.
 4, Swatow, German str., from Manila.
 4, Tailee, German str., from Canton.
 4, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 4, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
 4, Yungching, Chinese str., from Canton.
 5, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
 5, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 5, Hinasang, British str., from Shanghai.
 5, Teenkai, British str., from London.
 5, Redpole, British gunboat, from Manila.
 6, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.
 6, Ningchow, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Rohilla, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Nestor, British str., from Amoy.

7, E. Rickmers, German str., from Shanghai.
 7, Irene, German str., from Kobe.
 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 7, Doris, German str., from Canton.
 7, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 7, Progress, German str., from Quinhon.
 7, Formosa, British str., from Amoy.
 7, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
 7, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.

September—DEPARTURES.

30, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 30, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 30, Federation, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
 30, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
 30, Sydney, French str., for Europe.
 30, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 30, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 30, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

October—

1, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Tailee, German str., for Canton.
 1, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.
 1, Independent, German str., for Canton.
 1, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Yungching, Chinese str., for Canton.
 1, Teucer, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 1, Radley, British str., for Nagasaki.
 1, Helene Brewer, Haw. ship, for Baltimore.
 2, Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
 2, Ivy, American ship, for Mantong.
 2, Cheang Hock Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 2, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Whampoa, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
 3, Nord, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 3, Changsha, British str., for Kobe.
 3, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 3, Doris, German str., for Canton.
 3, Bisagno, Italian str., for Bombay.
 3, Canton, British str., for London.
 3, Deucalion, British str., for Sandakan.
 3, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 3, Independent, German str., for Chefoo.
 3, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 3, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 3, Tritos, German str., for Singapore.
 3, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 4, Amara, British str., for Samarang.
 4, Cosmopolit, German str., for Amoy.
 4, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 4, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 4, Mirzapore, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Shigaura Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 7, Osborne, British str., for Yokohama.
 7, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
 7, Northbrook, British ship, for Vancouver.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Changsha*, str., from Sydney.—Mr. and Miss Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Bushly, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, Rev. Gottwatty, Messrs. Trapman, and Woodhead, Miss Devine, and Mrs. Hoffman.

Per *Sydney*, str., for Hongkong from Shanghai.—Mr. Carlsen, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Sinclair, Mrs. Merecki, Mrs. Maciano Marti, Mr. Maciano Reiss, Mrs. Kelsall, Mrs. Portaria, Mr. Sporry, and Capt. Emke. From Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Ringer, Mr. Howard, Miss Ray, Lieut. Ray, Capt. and Mrs. Bunjee and 3 children, Mr. Gerard, Miss Montgomery, Miss Shaeffer. From Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and infant, Major and Mrs. Hanham, Mr. and Mrs. Carol and 4 children, Messrs. Conner and Pidgeon.

Per *Manila*, str., from London for Shanghai.—Mr. Denham. For Kobe—Mrs. and Miss Mola.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila, &c.—Miss Jean Blood, Madame Hara Asa, Messrs. Joseph Edndonnel and Chuyero Sugino.

Per *Yungching*, str., from Shanghai—Capts. Johnson and Symons.

Per *Haimun*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. Jenkinson.

Per *Tsinan*, str., from Foochow.—Messrs. F. Lammert, J. Danby, and Mills.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mrs. Fannie Fuller, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bailey, Lieut. Holland, R.B., and Mr. Cant-Yen.

Per *Velocity*, bark, from Honolulu—Mr. E. Busel.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., for Hongkong from London—Lieut. N. G. Dewar, Messrs. Rutter and Roberts. From Brindisi—Messrs. Stockwell and Ford. From Singapore—Mr. Collingwood. For Shanghai from London—Mr. D. C. Rutherford and Mrs. Rutherford, Mr. Reeks, and Dr. Learmouth. From Brindisi—Rev. N. C. Whittemore. From Bombay—Mr. Esmaillhoy Chandobhoy. For Yokohama from London—General Flagg. From Brindisi—Mr. K. Tonabe.

Per *Wingsang*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Capt. Kent.

Per *Loongmoon*, str., from Shanghai—Mrs. Stepharius and baby.

Per *Hailoong*, steamer, from Swatow—Miss Stewart, and 203 Chinese.

Per *Swatow*, str., from Manila—Mr. Maur.

Per *Chusan*, str., from Iloilo—Mr. A. Tean-chaquet.

Per *Verona*, str., for Hongkong from Yokohama—Messrs. H. Smith, Sakio Choh, and T. Takata, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bane and 2 children. From Kobe—Mrs. and Miss Master, Messrs. P. Chow and Low H. Wan. From Nagasaki—Messrs. Hoh Wing, Charles Bew, Peter Collin, and Tang Chang. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. G. A. Diss. For Bombay—Mrs. F. C. Farmer and infant, Miss Varnum. For London—Miss Webb.

DEPARTED.

Per *Zafiro*, str., for Manila—Mr. James W. Davidson.

Per *Memnon*, str., for Kudat—Mr. Nowveldt.

Per *Coptic*, str., for Amoy—Mrs. Law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ong Capin and family, Mrs. Ong Capin and family, Miss Ong Capin, Messrs. Cho Seang Seng and Wong Loong Fung. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Busby. For Yokohama—Mrs. Hara Asa. For Honolulu—Mr. and Mrs. Winam. For San Francisco—Miss C. A. White, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, and Mr. T. G. Hughes.

Per *Empress of Japan*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. S. Mast and Misses Mast (2), Mr. and Mrs. Ellert, Rev. Voakamp, Rev. H. V. Noyes, Dr. Veckenstedt, Mr. A. Cumming, Mr. Ah Kong, and Mr. Lo Wan Po. For Kobe—Misses Sayer (2), Mr. F. Henderson. For Yokohama—Miss Humphreys, Capt. F. H. Young, Mr. J. S. Hagan, Mr. Chin Yu Pong. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Beeton and child, Mrs. H. C. Dalrymple, Messrs. A. M. Scott and A. H. Wilzer.

Per *Sydney*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Misses Chan Woo Chee, Akoe, and Akita, and Mrs. Hartmann. For Singapore—Mr. Ochitsu, Misses Neo Ong Hee and Venning. For Marseilles—Messrs. A. Faber, A. Haase, Abbe A. Pozze, and J. Audonnet. For Saigon from Shanghai—Mr. Rogliano. From Yokohama—Messrs. Simon and Ottaviani. For Singapore from Yokohama—Capt. Ver-turme, Messrs. Spieler and Von Roakowski. From Kobe—Mr. Higulin. For Colombo from Shanghai—Mr. Yaresi Guiseppa. For Calcutta from Shanghai—Mrs. Klobukowsky and infant. For Port Said from Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Deacon D'ewowski and 4 children. For Marseilles from Shanghai—Mrs. Hillier and infant, Revs. Aurel and Bategnie, Messrs. Hans Jacques Hansen, Bengtsson, Johan Byonsen, Hansen, Sinechal, Daych, Dallest, Henney, and Ruby. From Yokohama—Mr. Deslandres, Mrs. Imorae, Mrs. Voisin, Mr. and Mrs. Mittan, and Mr. Savatur. From Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Motono and infant, Capt. Ito, Mrs. Ito and 3 children, and Mr. Simon.

Per *Kutsang*, str., for Singapore—Mr. R. F. Gutierrez.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mrs. Hillier and 3 children, Messrs. C. V. d. Mühlen, S. A. Joseph, and J. Dempster, and Miss Hall. From Bombay—Mr. Esmaillhoy Chandobhoy. From Brindisi—Rev. Whittemore. From London—Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford, Dr. Learmouth, and Mr. Reeks.